



c.44.6: Market Hill area

These stories feature Cambridge Market Hill and the adjacent streets that feed into it. They cover the market itself, the Guildhall, Corn Exchange, Arts Theatre and Victoria Cinema for each of which I have more detailed files. They also reflect stories of some of the individuals who have lived and worked there.

1888 03 02

Agitation for covered market at Cambridge [1.17]

1889 02 15

Royal Commission on Market Rates & Tolls enquiry [1.18]

1891

Hallack & Bond sketch of new building [NI.1.14]

1891

The building where the first electricity for lighting in Cambridge was generated is now on the market. The property, No.2 Market Passage, was the premises of Bailey, Grundy and Barrett, electrical contractors. In 1891 the firm produced the first electricity for lighting in the city with a gas engine and a dynamo installed in the basement. In those early days private electrical generating plants were supplied by the company to several of the Cambridge colleges. Until after the 1914-18 war such plants continued to be installed in country houses in outlying districts. As this business declined, the company moved into wireless, the design and making of temperature control equipment for laboratories and other specialised apparatus c73 03 04

1897

Hallack & Bond new premises Petty Cury [NI.1.14]

1897 03 05

Wm Henry Chapel Smith, draper of 13 Market Street was summoned for hanging a pair of corsets and a roll of calico outside his shop front so as to incommode passengers. P.C. Savidge said the things projected four inches. Defendant said "I have lived in the street 25 years and you have been in the force 25 minutes. I think you were drawing the line too close. I don't know what we are coming to". He said the bye-law was an injustice to traders. The Chairman said it seemed to him admitted that something projected beyond the line of the shop. Fined 1/-

1897 03 09

Cover Market with glass for Jubilee, p3

1897 04 12

Proposed covered market, p2

1897 04 24

A memorial from certain inhabitants of the Cambridge in Favour of covering the Market Hill with a permanent covering of iron and glass was read by the Town Clerk. Coun Nichols thought the state of their present market was a disgrace to civilisation. They were paying at least £400 a year for putting up and taking down those wretched wooden structures and the cloths that covered them were of no use whatever. Mr F. Morley did not believe in the Corporation entering into competition with the shopkeepers of the town and driving the trade into the hand of people who paid no rates. Mr Campkin felt the question of a covered market elsewhere was too serious a matter for them to consider for many years to come. (The council voted against the proposal)

1897 05 21

After the Senate House scenes yesterday (when the University voted against degrees for women) there was a brief respite. It was the calm before the storm. About 7 o'clock there was a grand gathering of the clans. Undergraduates began trooping through the streets to what was obviously a pre-arranged rendezvous - the Market Hill. From the four corners of the square fire was opened upon everybody and everything within range. Bombs, hand-rockets, and every description of firework manufactured were flung haphazard into the crowd until the scene resembled nothing so much as the bombardment of a hostile camp. It is no exaggeration to say that hundreds of pounds worth of stuff were got rid of during the five hours the proceedings lasted

1897 06 23

Providence set the seal of approval on the absolutely flawless celebration of Queen Victoria's Jubilee. Cambridge Market-place presented a particularly attractive spectacle with the Guildhall illuminated and the long lines of coloured lamps; above all with the moving masses of eager folk, who had come out in the best of tempers to be amused. One or two cranky people pretended to be shocked at the extreme naughtiness of letting off a few squibs, which was not to be compared with the imprudence of running heavy 'busses through the narrow and crowded Cury and Market-hill. A remarkably beautiful sunset was succeeded by the exquisite Jubilee twilight mingling into the dawn of the longest day; and in Cambridge, as elsewhere, everybody who went to bed - and most folks sought that sensible repose - did so with high hopes of the morrow

1897 08 20

For several years Cambridge has been in a state of chronic poverty. With hardly a sou in the bank - not sufficient to meet tradesmen's bill as they become due - the financial outlook has been far from cheering to the ratepayer. A farthing rate to retain East Road Reading Room is denied, yet in the next breath the modest sum of £21,000 is voted for street improvements. And again there is the front of the Guildhall. No sane person can defend the retention of a monstrosity like that and if it is not to be retained it must be replaced and care must be taken that the new building is worthy of the town c1897
08 20

1897 09 30

Holy Trinity Church, Cambridge, was filled with a large congregation, the occasion being the re-opening service after the church had been closed for purposes of restoration. When the cement was removed from the buttresses, real solid stonework was found to be concealed underneath, and on these buttresses the date 1516 was discovered. An old consecration cross was also found by the architect. This cross, he says, is very unique and it is intended that it should be covered with glass in order to preserve it c1897 09 30

1897 11 25

A well-attended meeting was held in Eden Street School, Cambridge to discuss the proposed expenditure on a new Guildhall front. Mr R. Sturton said they must have a new cemetery as he did not suppose sanitary science would advance sufficiently rapidly to go in for cremation en bloc. Then there was the new Police Station and something would have to be done to the Sanatorium. Mr Burwick thought the more they beautified Cambridge the more good they would do to business. Why not have a police station at the town hall, offices for the payment of rates, swimming baths. He did not see why shops should not be built on Peas Hill so as to bring in a considerable amount

1897 12 11

Cambridge Market Committee recommended that a new form of market stall known as the "Diamond Stall" be erected on Market Hill. Mr Nichols remarked that the long vexed question of covering in the market was the objection to a permanent structure being erected on Market Hill. They were paying now £850 per year for putting up and taking down all those wretched stalls and their repairs. At some length he described the advantages to the town that the scheme would bring about, amid some manifestations of impatience on the part of the Council c1897 12 11

1898 02 07

Cycle traders of Cambridge have put on one side petty jealousy, and uniting under the title of the Cambridge City Traders' Association have prepared an exhibition in the Corn Exchange. Every description of cycle is here, from the child's small machine and the slim one of the fair sex to the stout roadster of the hardy, touring, record-making male. The latest novelties find a place, and motor cycles and tricycles tempt those to whom ease and novelty are more than exercise. In this connection we may mention that it is proposed to have a motor car running during the week about the town in connection with the show. Special railway facilities have been granted and the exhibition should be an immense success. To all we would say "Go", whether a wheeler or not.

1898 02 17

Cambridge market stalls – buy new, p3 *

1898 04 13

Holy Trinity Church renovation of interior and enlarged electric lighting CDN 1898 04 13

1898 05 06

At Cambridge Corn Exchange there took place an assault-at-arms, in which the many well-known exponents of the art of self-defence and kindred sports took part. One of the most interesting events was the wrestling between the champion of Bulgaria and the middleweight champion of England. Now and again one of the combatants would hurl his opponent to the ground with platform shaking force, and time after time the thrown one would come up to the scratch smiling, and more wonderful still, with unbroken bones. The audience dispersed well satisfied with the entertainment and the entertainers.

1898 05 09

St Bene't's Church, Cambridge, reopened for public service with an improved organ and newly elected organ chamber, beside several minor renovations in the decoration of the interior of the building. Archdeacon Emery said that the condition of the Church in 1849, when he was ordained Deacon, with its organ Gallery at the West End, and those high pews in the nave, and green baized pews in the Chancel was then far different to what it was now. Since that time the South aisle had

been erected, the West End and Tower opened and restored, the Chancel and church generally restored and seated in such a manner that all the worshippers could feel they formed one family of God.

1898 05 19

Cambridge town council was requested to consider permitting a cabmen's shelter to be placed on the Market Hill. Mr Darwin said that he received a petition asking for the provision of some place for them to warm themselves during the cold months in some central position in the town. At present there was only one cabmen's shelter in the town and that was very widely used. If they provided another the public would gain some advantage because the cabmen, instead of going to the public houses, as they now did, would go to the shelter. The only possible harm it would do was that perhaps it would make the neighbouring public houses sell less beer

1898 05 28

There was but little crush as the stream of mourners poured from all quarters of the town into Great St Mary's Church for the Memorial Service to Mr Gladstone. A subdued calm seem to fall like a veil over the centre of Cambridge as the bell tolled forth its tale of loss to the nation, and a hush, as it were, of the chamber of death seemed even to spread itself over the busy market place. Quietly the people filed into the Church and stepped into the first empty pew; none stopping to haggle for a seat. Even as the doors were being closed, as the last bars of the echoing National Anthem waned to silence, latecomers yet found room in one or other of the galleries, and no one was turned from the Church

1898 09

St Mary's electricity substation equipped & Guildhall sub-station demolished [2.10.11]

1898 09 23

Rose, Rose Crescent licence not renewed * 24th p2

1898 10 07

Cambridge town council has issued an additional report on the proposed new Guildhall buildings. The accommodation will be considerably increased and will include in the basement, additional coal store, public lavatories for men and women and three new storerooms. On the ground floor a greatly improved entrance with grand staircase, cloak rooms, retiring rooms, two new public meeting rooms, kitchen and offices. Facing Union Street three new shops will be provided. On the first floor the Aldermen's parlour will be enlarged and improved and there will be rooms for the town clerk as well as a Mayor's reception room and a new enlarged council chamber. The cost is estimated at £38,000
CDN 1898 10 07

1898 10 13

The Town Council of Cambridge has asked the burgesses whether they are of a mind to make a beginning at once with the extension of the Guildhall, and with the building of a new front, and the ratepayers have given their answer. There is no ambiguity about that answer; the "No" is emphatic enough. The attendance at the Guildhall was so large that those who know by experience how difficult it is to get the public to take an active interest in public questions must have been surprised. CDN 1898 10 13

1898 10 18

The photographer who is also an artist has a great advantage over the photographer who is merely a mechanic. One may realise this very clearly by paying a visit to the studio at St Mary's Passage, Cambridge, of Mr Clement A. Shaw. His first love was painting but in his portrait work he found the advantage of being able to take a photograph of the subject, in that tedious sittings could often be curtailed. His studios are covered with specimens of his work. There are photographs in all processes - opals, miniatures, pastels and oil paintings. There are several pictures painted on an enlarged scale from photographs which are very meritorious indeed

1898 11 07

Saturday was a typical "fifth" in Cambridge. Faithfully following the precedent set in former years a number of Varsity men and townspeople assembled in the market place, which for three hours or so was crowded with excitable and pugilistically-inclined youths, representing Town and gown. The Gown driven from pillar to post by the howling mob, appeared to be greatly terrified, and despite the vigilance of the police, of whom a large number were told off for special duty, the celebration was not entirely free from violence. Neither town nor gown missed many opportunities of displaying their physical prowess and many are the reports circulated as to the results of the pugilistic encounters that ensued

1898 11 24

Great crowds had been assembling outside Great St Mary's and the railings before the Senate House with the exception of a pathway of about five yards which the police were endeavouring to keep clear for those attending the honorary degree ceremony for Lord Kitchener. It was evidence that the constables were having hard work in keeping the crowds from encroaching. At length the looked-for rush took place and such was the force that the police were quite powerless to check it. A general scramble to get upon the railings ensued when without the slightest warning the railings suddenly gave way and fell outwards carrying many unfortunate persons to the ground with them. The solidity of this great piece of ironwork is well known and it is wonderful that more were not seriously injured. CDN 1898 11 24

1899 02 16

Mr Slingsby drew the attention of Cambridge council to the want of public conveniences. He thought the present state of affairs was a disgrace and a scandal to this civilised and intellectual town. They should consider underground lavatories for males and females at Hyde Park Corner (under the shelter), Market Hill (under the Conduit) & at the junction of East Road and Newmarket Road

1899 04 01

An outcome of the exhibition of motors at the Corn Exchange is a new company under the title of the Cambridge and Eastern Counties Auto Mobile Company. The first instalment of the new vehicles have already arrived and they can be booked for parties. They are driven by the Daimler motors, and are in charge of qualified drivers from the manufactory

1899 04 02c

The Red Cow Inn concert hall, Guildhall Street, Cambridge. Special engagement for six nights of Miss Sadie St John, comedienne and dancer; Miss Gracie White, serio and dancer and Mr G. Kent, comedian and mimic. American bowling saloon now open. – Advert

1899 08 23

Albert Hart applied for a licence for 'The Sirdar', Market St, Cambridge. The place had been largely patronised but he laboured under a disadvantage of not being able to provide his customers with spirits or beers. The fashion of drinking wine in the middle of the day had been discountenanced for many years past by doctors and everybody that went to a place for lunch required spirits or soda water. He had to send out for such drinks to some public house in the vicinity. The money had to be extracted from the customer who had to wait until his refreshments were brought to him through the street. That was not an advantage to the liquor itself, especially with the dust flying about and the intense heat of the sun.

1899 10 03

Cambridge cabmen's union was told that certain ladies had volunteered to provide a cabmen's shelter on Peas Hill, close to St Edward's church. The chairman hoped the cabmen would always maintain their proper rank of respectability, and keep themselves above suspicion of rowdyism or anything approaching to it

1899 11 06

The announcement that a number of Reserve men belonging to the Suffolk Regiment would leave Cambridge to join the regiment sufficed to bring thousands of people together in the Market Hill to give them a hearty send off. It detracted somewhat from the picturesqueness of the effect that the Reserve men were not in uniform but in their ordinary clothes but they could not have evoked greater enthusiasm on the part of the public. Heads of colleges were there, undergraduates in caps and gowns rubbed shoulders with farm workers from the country. Old soldiers wearing their medals had come to live over again stirring scenes from their youth. Women were there and children also. It was a crowd thoroughly resolved upon manifesting its goodwill to the men who were going away

1899 12 04

An ostler and an undergraduate were summoned for causing an affray by fighting in Petty Cury. P.C. Belling said he took them both into custody. On the way to the station the undergraduate was wrestled from his custody by another 'Varsityman and his finger was injured. On returning to the Market Hill he saw the student with some friends and he admitted having escaped from custody. After the magistrates had deliberated they found the charges not substantiated and the case was dismissed.

1900

1900 03 01

The greatest possible excitement followed the receipt of the news of the relief of Ladysmith. The telegrams conveying the announcement was received at the chief Post office shortly after 10 o'clock and the intelligence spread with marvellous rapidity to all parts of the town. When a private wire was posted in the Market Place the excitement was intense. From all approaches people could be seen rushing to get a view of the telegram and the wildest enthusiasm prevailed. The crowd raised hearty cheers and there was much waving of hats and handkerchiefs.

1900 03 03

There was great rejoicings in Cambridge on the relief of Ladysmith and despite the edict sent forth by the University authorities the conduct of the undergraduate element was again such as to necessitate the intervention of the police. The Varsitymen managed to draw police attention off the market place to scenes elsewhere and, during their temporary absence, succeeded in lighting a bonfire. There was great excitement as one by one the wooden frameworks of the stalls was committed to the flames. The band-stand on Christ's Pieces was attacked and the seats removed to the Market and quickly consumed. Similar damage was occasioned in all parts of the town.

It was on that night that the last really big bonfire was started on Cambridge Market Square. Old horse buses, "growlers" filled with tar and straw, market stalls – all went to feed those triumphant flames whose heat cracked every window in the Market Square. 52 02 26

1900 12 22

A serious fire occurred on the premises of Messrs Coulson & Co., drapers at Peas Hill, Cambridge, and the flames were not extinguished until the entire stock of goods in the shop were completely destroyed. Captain Greef of the Fire Brigade arrived as did 14 firemen and nearly a dozen constables. The fronts of the shop were much damaged. The cause of the fire is attributed to the overturning of one of the incandescent burners in the shop window.

1901 05 20

Smells, Market Hill, p2

1901 05 20 c

Messrs Bidwell, auctioneers, conducted a very successful sale of property in Wheeler Street and Parsons Court, Cambridge. Two shops with a dwelling house, being No.11 Peas Hill, sold for £2,050. Nos.1 & 2 Wheeler Street comprising a cabinet-makers shop, with dwelling house, and a harness maker's shop brought in £1,800 while a private house in Parsons Court was knocked down for £750

1901 06 11

Between 400 and 500 guests were present at the ball of the First and Third Trinity Boat Club held in the Cambridge Guildhall. Supper was served in the Corn Exchange by Mr W.E. Wood of Trinity Kitchen, who hit upon the happy idea of purchasing all the exhibition roses in the Horticultural Society's show with which to decorate the supper tables. Stanislaus Wurm's orchestra provided the music.

1901 07 13

What say the shareholders of the Cambridge Tramways Company to the advent of a new service of motor buses working only from Market Hill to the Station – a penny service running from 8.30am to 9.30 pm. I have been assured by one of the promoters that the first of a batch of six new motor 'buses' intended to be used on the new smooth road from the Post Office to the station will be tried in Cambridge within a month. It is certain such rivalry would destroy the present useful and satisfactory tram service – "A"

1901 11 11

It being the King's 60th birthday it was expected that nightfall would be the occasion for rowdyism and possibly an attempt to illuminate Cambridge Market Hill. The authorities cleared away the stalls, but their action left the historic centre of all "rags" open and free for the antics of the crowd. For a long time nothing occurred except the explosion of a few crackers or the discharge of a pistol from a window overlooking the hill. Large numbers of police were hustled about considerably, and were compelled to defend themselves, but compared with other 'rags', they did not have to exert themselves very much. It was a very tame, spiritless affair that will doubtless be deemed by the "bloods" to have been a complete failure, considering that practically no damage to property was done

1901 11 19

One of the largest companies ever seen at a boxing display was present at the assault-at-arms in Cambridge Corn Exchange. A ten-round contest between two promising local lads, W. Shipp and Bill Topper created a great amount of interest and so gamely did they box that the audience was roused to enthusiasm. A powerful left-hander flush in the face so dazed Shipp that he caved in and Topper was returned an easy winner

1902 02 04

In at least one thing Cambridge is abreast of the times. She has the craze for ping-pong, or to call it by its more dignified name, table tennis. For a long time past the ping of the racket could be heard coming from the houses of the up-to-date. By Christmastime ping-pong parties had become quite general, ping-pong clubs were formed and now Cambridge has been brought into line with the metropolis by holding a tournament. It was to be held at the Conservative Club, but owing to the large entry it was decided to transfer operations to the Corn Exchange. The one table reserved for ladies was always an attraction. The lady competitors, generally in smart costumes, played a milder game, though there were some who would have made the male sex jump about

1902 02 21

Sir – Verily the doing of Cambridge Town Council are marvellous. They have recommended the installation of the electric light in the Corn Exchange "owing to the representations made to them by 'corn merchants and others' using it". I should have thought they would have known that corn dealers can only carry on their business by daylight and it is impossible to buy and sell corn by electric or other artificial light. Moreover the business of the Corn Exchange is all over by 4.30, so what do they want the electric light for? If the council thinks it necessary to light it by electricity by all means let them do so, but they should not talk nonsense as they do when they say the traders want it. – J. Toosher

1902 02 25

The Cycle and Motor Show at the Cambridge Corn Exchange has undoubtedly "caught on"; those who do not cycle are a steadily decreasing minority, while motorists are daily increasing in number.

Messrs Macintosh are exhibiting a Sunbeam Mabley Motor Car which is a very handsome-looking vehicle with several distinctive features. The riders are in a position to face each other, although occupying different ends of the motor. The car is not of extraordinary width and can be manipulated with the greatest ease; a small exhibition run was made even on the limited floor space of the now-crowded Corn Exchange

1902 06 03

Peace in South Africa produced strife in Cambridge – one of those fierce contests between the police and the united forces of town and gown which, combined with the destruction of property, constitutes a “rag”. In King Street a large double gate was attacked as wood for a bonfire but a vigorous-looking dame appeared from the other side. Her only weapon was a duster, but such a formidable appearance did she present that the crowd melted away before her advance. Skirmishers went towards the Circus of Varieties to obtain a hoarding but this was well guarded and soon they were retracing their steps. The hoarding which surrounded the underground toilets on Market Hill was torn down and lighted. More wood was wanted and the mob pulled down glazed bricks and girders, door-posts and window frames. Next morning the appearance of the projected underground lavatory was more like an archaeological excavation. Thousands of bricks were lying in the bottom mixed up with the dirt and pieces of wood and the general appearance of the place showed how wanton and reckless had been the young hot heads who had wrought the damage

1902 06 27

Never before has Cambridge Corn Exchange been the scene of such a curious sight as when a distribution was made of the large quantity of food intended to form part of the feast to the old folks in celebration of the Coronation. When the news of its postponement was received the cooking of the food had already begun. Several hundred of the poorest inhabitants gathered outside the front gates of the Corn Exchange as quickly as their too-evident infirmities would allow them. Quite a number wrapped quantities of fruit tart in grimy newspapers that could hardly have improved their semi-liquid contents.

1902 08 06

Popular Country Drives. The “Alexandra” and “Coronation” char-a-bancs will leave Cambridge Market Hill on Wednesday for Shelford, Newton and Whittlesford; return fare 1s. Thursday special drive to Royston, Friday Haslingfield and Saturday Earith bridge. Special Sunday drive to Whittlesford Bridge pleasure gardens. H. Buck, jobmaster, Crown Inn, Jesus Lane, Cambridge – advert

1902 08 21

Market St paving, p2

1902 10 24

The members of the Cambridge Y.M.C.A. celebrated their jubilee with a soiree in their rooms in Alexandra Street. 50 years ago the Church of England Young Men’s Society and the Sunday School Teachers’ Institute amalgamated, forming the Association. It settled in Rose Crescent. In 1853 it moved to larger premises at 5, Sidney Street, moving to Hobson Place in 1858 and then St Edward’s Passage. In 1870 the first stone was laid of their present building; it was completed a year later. To call the soiree a success is scarcely adequate; the visitors never had a dull moment from the time they entered the door until the National Anthem brought the evening to a close.

1902 11 20

Bridge over Corn Exchange Street, p3 *

1902 12 18

Cambridge Water Company sued Messrs Kerridge and Shaw for water supplied for a building in course of construction in Rose Crescent, Cambridge. The supply recorded by a water meter had increased from 78,000 gallons one quarter up to 220,000 gallons the next. A new meter was installed

and consumption fell. They claimed the old meter must have got out of order. But it was quite possible considering the number of taps they were using that one was left running and the water wasted.

1903 02 23

The Cambridge Corn Exchange exhibition of cycles and motors has become an annual event. Motors and motor cycles are as yet in their infancy and each year sees great strides taken towards perfection. There are on view some fine, up-to-date specimens of motor cars. The Mayor said he was a cyclist of some years' standing but his experiences of motor cars was very limited. He had been for a ride on a motor car, and thoroughly enjoyed it. Manufacturers were handicapped by stringent laws as to the pace motors might travel over public roads. While so many horses were about it was startling for them to find a vehicle coming at 20 miles an hour and making rather a peculiar noise

1903 07 07

Cambridge is becoming an uncongenial place for the purveyor of pirated music. The latest of several seizures took place at the instigation of Messrs Bedwell, music dealers of St Mary's Passage. A member of the firm, with the assistance of police, examined a stock of music being sold by several hawkers on Market Hill. About 80 copies of well-known songs and some of Sousa's marches were found among the stock being sold cheaper than authorised charges for music produced by the holders of the copyright. They were promptly confiscated and taken to the police station. The hawkers were agents of a huge and craftily constituted organisation that exists for the distribution over the country of music of this description

1903 08 26

A meeting arranged by the Cambridge Anti-Vaccination League was held on Market Hill. A large crowd of people assembled but the opinions of the principal speaker aroused some opposition & a little heckling took place. Someone placed a quantity of calcium carbide into the water of the fountain. & the acetylene gas which was generated was borne among the audience to whom the disagreeable odour was most objectionable

1903 12 05

The Central Temperance Hotel and Coffee Tavern, Market Hill, Cambridge was for sale by auction. It has been an important and famous inn for centuries; originally known as the 'Three Tuns' it was visited by Pepys in 1660. The large ballroom with the minstrels' gallery still exists with valuable panelling and carved chimney pieces. It occupies an excellent position in a busy thoroughfare and is freehold.

1903 12 23

Cambridge architect Edwin Bays has produced a plan for a new 60 feet-wide road from Downing Street to Guildhall Street, parallel to Corn Exchange Street. This would create valuable frontages for business premises on either side and lead to a site for a new Cambridgeshire County Hall. There would be a fountain to take off the nakedness of the wide entrance at St Andrew's Hill, replacing the old Corn Exchange. It would relieve the congested traffic in the narrow Petty Cury and provide a direct access to the chief colleges.

1904 01 04

Considerable damage was done by a fire that started in the attic at the Rose Hotel, Rose Crescent, Cambridge. News was received at the Fire Station by means of the fire alarm post on Market Hill and they were soon on the scene with the horsed fire escape and tender. Much damage was done in a comparatively small area but every room in the hotel suffered from the effects of water, which saturated the ceilings. Fortunately none of the bedrooms were occupied at the time

1904 01 21

Cambridge councillors considered the purchase of a steam fire engine. The two fires at Addenbrooke's Hospital and Fitzroy Street were bad, but took place under favourable conditions – in the first the

wind took the flames away from the Hospital and in the other there was a brick wall, instead of lathe and plaster. Since then there had been two other fires, in Sidney Street and Rose Crescent which might have resulted disastrously. In the centre of town whole blocks of buildings might be burnt down. The only additional expenditure would be the cost of an engineer. But the Fire Brigade did not want one and they ought to know more than councillors.

1904 01 22

Discussion about site for War Memorial, one suggestion is at junction of Hills Road & Station Road, finally decide to erect it at East end exterior of Gt St Mary's church [1.10]

1904 06 03

Fire in Messrs Bell and Son's premises in Wheeler Street, an ancient building used as a corn and seed merchants premises for two or three centuries. Police constable Winter noticed fire and smoke at 4.30 am and gave the alarm. The hose reel from the Guildhall was affixed to a hydrant and a stream of water directed on the burning building. Firemen appeared on the scene with the horsed fire-escape and tender but the building of three floors and constructed largely of lath and plaster was burning fiercely. The flames leapt high through the roof and shot out through the windows. In a very short time the roof fell in with a crash and all hope for saving the property was destroyed. The efforts of 28 firemen and 15 police was directed towards preventing the spread of the fire to the adjoining property. The cause of the outbreak is unknown. There had been unusual activity among the rats and mice in the old premises, now taken as a sign that the fire had got a good hold on Sunday evening. The damage was extensive. The fire and second floors, used for the storage of fodder and seed were nearly burnt out, the ground floor and offices were severely damaged by smoke. The basement and the top floor and a small part of the roof of the 'Bell' public house were damaged by water as were the contents of the tobacconist's shop at the end of Wheeler Street occupied by Mr Canham. The window frames of the Cambridge Free Library were slightly damaged by the heat. 04 06 03

1904 06 16

Cambridge Library committee referred to the recent fire on Peas Hill and the destruction of the premises adjacent to the library. But for the skill of the fire brigade the reading room must have been destroyed and the contents lost. The accumulation of books, pictures and scarce literature could never be replaced. Now the old dilapidated buildings should be cleared away and a more appropriate building erected. Next year they would celebrate the jubilee of the opening of the library and the appointment of Mr Pink as Librarian. The Library Association should be invited to hold their annual meeting at Cambridge, free of charge.

1904 06 16

Cambridge Town Council honoured Alexander Peckover, Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire with the Freedom of the Borough in recognition of his services to Cambridge and his munificence to Addenbrooke's Hospital and the Eastern Counties Asylum at Colchester which has made his name a household word in the neighbourhood. The address was enclosed in an ebony casket supplied by Messrs Cole of Market Street on which was a silver plate. It was, said Peckover, something he would value very highly. The casket would go down as an heirloom to his daughter

1904 07 13

Few realise the lavish expenditure on the May Balls held in Cambridge Corn Exchange. After the corn merchants have vacated the building on the Saturday evening a small army of workmen take possession. They labour until midnight when the advent of the Sabbath and the strict rules governing municipal buildings shut them out for 24 hours. With the first hour of Monday morning they re-enter and by eight that evening the place is transformed into an artistic ballroom through which not a vestige of the prosaic Corn Exchange is seen. What of the cost? There is not less than £2,000 worth of goods in the ball room; add to that the cost of utilising the Guildhall as a supper room and include the china and plates for the supper and you have a total of some thousands of pounds to provide our moneyed visitors with an evening's entertainment.

1904 09 20

Sunday saw the realization of a scheme in connection with Great St Mary's church, Cambridge, which has been in progress 15 years: the filling of the clerestory with windows. The church was re-opened having been closed so that the remaining three windows might be put in. Two were given in memory of W.H. Hattersley & Alderman Scales. They are a great improvement to the church and represent the three verses of the Te Deum CDN 20.9.1904

1905 04 15

Both Cambridge buses started to ply for hire and the novelty induced people to make trips. Had several more 'buses been running they would have been crowded. The scene on Market Hill was unprecedented. Apart from those who lined one pavement in the hope of obtaining a seat it was alive with folk who were content with watching. As soon as a vehicle drew up a crowd swarmed around the steps, clutching the handrail and endeavouring to get a foothold on the step. Each time there were many left waiting on the pavement disappointed and most waited until it returned. 05 04 15 & a

1905 06 13

The memorial to the Cambridge men who died during the South African War was unveiled at Great St Mary's Church. It is not inside the church but looks out upon the Market Place, seeming to say that in the midst of life we were in death. A guard of honour consisting of a hundred men of the Cambridge Town Volunteers together with a detachment of the Suffolk Militia, a dismounted body of Hussars, Cambridge University Rifle Volunteers and the band of the Scots Grays joined old soldiers who had seen service in South Africa to witness the proceedings 05 06 13c

1905 06 17

The unveiling of the South African war memorial was marred by two small incidents. The Mayor of Cambridge was without his trusty mace-bearers - apparently the maces were securely locked up and the individual who holds the keys was not to be found. Then police failed to recognise the military veterans and refused them admittance to the ceremony to which they had been invited. There was a considerable amount of confusion until the constables were enlightened as to the nature of the guests and allowed them to pass. 05 06 17

1905 07 18

The landlord of the Central Hotel, Cambridge, told how a man rang the bell in the commercial room and as if he could have a 'number'. This was the customary way in which commercial travellers asked for a room. Later the man said he could not pay his bill. He did not believe he was a commercial traveller and called the police. The man carried a parcel, neatly done up similar to those carried by travellers but when opened it contained two racing calendars, a tin of boot polish and some newspapers. 05 07 18d & e

1905 08 26

Sir - I wish to protest against an act of vandalism. The fine of Cambridge from the corner of Petty Cury with the stalls, old fountain and University Church has been ruined by the erection of a lofty 'stink pipe' in the middle of the Market Place, cutting the east window of the church in half. Why could this not have been run up the side of the Guildhall where it would not have been such an eyesore? - Cantab. 05 08 26c

1905 09 13

Sir - I believe the earliest Cambridge photographer was George Proctor, who lived in New Square until he died about 1850. About the same time Sarony, a celebrated photographer, was allowed to carry on his business in a caravan on Parker's Piece. There were others including Nichols who had a flourishing business; he moved from Slaughter House Lane to St Mary's Passage and later his son to Post Office Terrace. He took my own portrait in 1854 and it is as good today as it was then - 'Three-score and twelve' 05 09 13a

1906 01 13

When the election meeting at Newnham concluded the candidate's carriage was drawn to the Conservative Club followed by a procession which included a couple of motor buses. Just as it reached Cambridge Market Hill a similar procession of demonstrating Liberals poured out of Petty Cury. These two bodies of citizens conceived an intense dislike for each other, shouting vigorously. A little later there was an exhibition of fisticuffs in Sidney Street 06 01 13

1906 03 03

Sir – for the past two Saturday afternoons a young Freshman has been disporting himself on a motor bicycle, making a circuit of the main thoroughfares of Cambridge, starting from Jesus Lane and ending at the Catholic Church, taking in Petty Cury and the Market Place. Being market-day the already too-congested streets are filled with many country folk, ladies and children, both on foot and on bicycles. He evidently likes to hear the sound of his hooter and the stench from his machine is disgusting. L.P.C. Macquaid. 06 03 03

1906 08 07

Cambridge fire brigade undoubtedly saved a portion of King's Parade, St Edward's Passage and Peas Hill from destruction by fire. There are numerous old houses, warehouses, sheds and outhouses of all descriptions, many constructed chiefly of wood. It broke out at Mons Buol's bakery, 17 Kings Parade; the bakehouse was gutted and hundreds of pounds of chocolate, almonds and sugar damaged. 06 08 07

1906 08 09

A demonstration of the capabilities of the new steam fire engine attracted hundreds of townspeople. It is a double cylinder variable expansion type made by Shand, Mason & Co., generating steam by oil fuel resulting in the complete absence of thick smoke and sparks. Water drawn from the stream in front of Addenbrooke's Hospital was thrown high above the roof of the building. It was then moved to King's Parade and threw water 20ft above the flagpole of Gt St Mary's church. 06 08 09a

1907 04 17

A retired Indian Civil servant was found dead with a revolver by his side. The deceased, who graduated at Caius College and was a teacher of Bengali, had been in ill-health for some time. His absence from home at Stapleford aroused comment so his son cycled over to the Indian Civil Service Rooms on Market Hill Cambridge where he found his father sitting in an armchair, shot through the heart. 07 04 17

1907 04 27

It is alleged that Hobson's Stream is being 'tapped' by some unauthorised body and the supply of water for public purposes is fast diminishing. Not so. To restore its former volume it simply needs flushing. Water comes from Shelford to the conduit in as plentiful a supply as ever but it is many years since the pipe which feeds the Market Hill fountain was adequately flushed and an accumulation of rubbish prevents it receiving the amount of water it should. There is some difficulty in deciding whether the town council or the Hobson's Charity are responsible, but the cost would not exceed £5. 07 04 27

1907 06 19

The 'Unity Brotherhood' had conducted some sort of mission for some months, circulating pamphlets couched in violent language attacking a Cambridge minister. The two men took up position on the Market Hill reading from a bundle of papers until there were about 1,000 people there. The crowd became hostile, hooting, shouting and trying hustle them until police intervened. They were remanded in gaol so their mental condition might be inquired into. 07 06 19 & a

1907 06 22

Charles Lawrence's kennels at Chesterton have bred many famous animals in the dog world, winning prizes in Antwerp, Brussels and Rotterdam. Purchasers come from all over the country; Alderman

Pratt of Bradford recently bought two pups for £100 while one sold for £300. During term time a familiar sight on Market Hill is a man surrounded by dogs which he sells to undergraduates at fancy prices. Mr Lawrence bought one for £2 cash, then exhibited it at a show and sold it for £150. To see a collection of valuable clumber, field and cocker spaniels gambolling in the paddock is a sight which must appeal even to those who have but the barest acquaintance with a good dog. 07 06 22b

1907 07 17

General William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, was welcomed to Cambridge by thousands of spectators who lined the road from Trumpington to the Guildhall. Three red motor cars with a Salvation Army flag in each were given quite an oration en route to Market Square where the Band struck up a popular Army tune. But the General entered the building from Peas Hill and ignored the cries of 'Speech' as he disappeared from view. 07 07 17

1907 08 17

Esperanto Congress held in Cambridge, Market Hill bedecked with flags. All other events in Cambridge have been dwarfed in comparison with the third International Esperanto Congress which has brought money into the town when trade was at its lowest ebb. It was hoped the University might have bestowed an honorary degree upon Dr Zamenhof, the Warsaw genius, but apart from a formal reception at the Fitzwilliam Museum it has generally stood aloof from the movement. 07 08 17a

1907 08 12

Esperanto has seized Cambridge like a raging fever. Genuine and spurious Esperanto fills the air as the autolycus of the gutter shouts unintelligent jargon to a street comrade and calls it Esperanto. But when a picturesque figure from the Swiss Canton appeared in the street the impudence of the street Arab was silenced. He was impressed by the tight green breeches and head capped by genuine Alpine hat. A Turk and Indians in national costume add considerably to the effect of this new kind of circus. 07 08 12a

1907 09 24

Cambridge Councillors considered the question of the old corn merchant's buildings on Peas Hill which were damaged by fire in 1904. The whole of the site, including the houses in Wheeler Street, should be used for municipal buildings with the basement and ground floor as an extension to the Central Library 07 09 24a

1907 10 12

Firemen fought a blaze in the roof of house in Rose Crescent. Underneath was the Modes and Ladies' Outfitting Establishment, carried on by Miss Hutchings and a large quantity of her stock was spoilt by the streams of water. After the fire was out the assistants were kept busy in removing hats and other goods from the shop. 07 10 12

1907 11 05

Holy Trinity church redecoration – 07 11 05b

1907 12 14

Suffragettes, unable to gain admission to the Guildhall, held a meeting outside in the rain. Two ladies from the Women's Social and Political Union picketed the entrance, distributing leaflets. Then they climbed on a market stall and addressed the crowd. To the credit of Cambridge the ladies were accorded a very fair hearing, but when Mr Keeling of Trinity mounted the platform there was such an uproar that, though his mouth was seen to be moving, not a word could be heard. Later they were surrounded by such a crowd that the police escorted them to a four-wheeler which drove off. - 07 12 14 & a

1908 02 18

Frank Andreae, known as 'The Fat Boy' to his friends, was stopped on Market Hill for not having the identification mark affixed to the back of his motor bicycle. He said he had travelled to Cambridge by

train and it had been broken off during the journey. He had left his licence in his tool bag in London. He was very forgetful, magistrates were told, and had even forgotten to have breakfast before he attended the court. In that case it was doubtful whether he ought to be allowed to ride a motor-bicycle, the Major commented. 08 02 18d

1908

County Council negotiate over use of Town Council offices, would mean rebuilding Guildhall front & using all corporation property on South side of Market Hill - "would prove popular [1.17]

1908 04 01

More than 1000 people gathered on Cambridge Market Hill at midnight to witness the official extinction of the Third (Cambs) Volunteer Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment. As the clock chimed the buglers played 'The Last Post' and the Volunteers were no more. But after a few seconds 'Reveille' was sounded, melancholy vanished and cheers greeted the new Cambridgeshire Battalion of the Territorial Force. The bugle band played the officers back to the mess room where they sang 'Auld Lang Syne'. 08 04 01 a & b

1908 09 11

A miniature rifle range and air rifle club has been formed in connection with the Church of England Young Men's Society at their large room in St Edward's Passage. The two targets can be placed in two positions – for shooting standing up or lying down – and two good air rifles have been provided. Englishmen should learn to shoot in order to defend their own hearths and homes and the Corporation should establish a range open almost all hours of the day. CWN 08 09 11 p8

1908 11 13

A singular accident in which a taximeter cab played a singular part occurred in Peas Hill. The lamp of taxi cab number 214, driven by a man named Darby, caught the awning connecting a couple of stalls and there was a general upset. The stall of Mr Reynolds was practically demolished and the sweets strewn about with the result that a number of boys had a scramble and pocketed as much as they could. The adjoining drapery stall of Mr Nicholls fared better. The affair caused a great deal of commotion CWN 08 11 13

1909 01 01

A slight outbreak of fire occurred at 17 Market Hill, Cambridge, the ground floor of which is used as a shop by Messrs Bacon Bros tobacconist and the upper part by Mr Mason as a lodging house. Smoke was issuing from the floor of an upstairs sitting room. The flooring was pulled up and near the fireplace an old beam was found to be smouldering. Fireman Parsley, with the aid of a hand-pump, disposed of all danger. CWN 09 01 01

1909 02 12

Hallack and Bond can trace their association with Cambridge back over 100 years: it was there that Elizabeth Woodcock purchased her groceries before being lost in the snow in 1799. Tea was a luxury then, now it is a necessity and their delicate Katharata blend produces pleasing results. A visit to their tea room is a revelation: upon a tea-tasting day fragrant bouquets from the Far East assail the nostrils and the palate including one with a beautiful peach-like perfume 09 02 12

1909 05 07

A number of undergraduates played havoc with the meeting of the Cambridge Association for Women's Suffrage. The Corn Exchange has a seating capacity of about 1,500 but by utilising the farmers' desks and standing in every available space, an audience of 2,000 listened to – or interrupted – the arguments. Quite 80 per cent of the meeting was composed of women, of whom Newnham and Girton contributed a considerable quota. But it was the minority whose increasingly violent disruptions caused the meeting to break up in a disorderly manner, though not before the resolutions had been carried by a large majority.

1909 06 25

There was an exciting scene in Cambridge Market Street when a lady screamed "I am on fire". Her dress was blazing furiously and the combined effect of the screams and the flames on the crowded street can easily be imagined. Fortunately Mr A. Kester tore off the burning skirt with his hands and staff from Eaden Lilley rushed out of the shop with mats and rugs in which she was rolled until the flames were extinguished. It is presumed the dress, which was of flimsy material, was ignited by a match carelessly dropped by a passer-by. 09 06 25

1909 11 12

Damage was caused to the house of Mr A. Carter, cab proprietor and common lodging-house keeper on Honey Hill, formerly known as the Beehive beerhouse. Fire broke out in the former tap room, now used as a bedroom. It appears his wife went into the room for some wearing apparel and the flame from her candle ignited some fancy mats hanging on the chest of drawers. A quantity of shawls, dresses and bonnets which were hanging on the wall, some brushes and the ceiling were damaged. Another fire in the basement of a lodging house at 17 Market Hill was noticed by undergraduates and extinguished by buckets of water. CWN 09 11 12

1909 11 19

Frederic William Hodgson carried on the business as plumber and decorator for nearly 30 years. He was a life-long abstainer and the oldest Deputy Grand Worthy Patriarch of the Cambridge Sons of Temperance, having cycled some thousands of miles whilst engaged in propaganda work. The sad cortege proceeded from his house in Peas Hill to Mill Road cemetery where the first part of the funeral service was conducted in the chapel. The coffin was borne by fellow members of friendly societies. CEN 09 11 19

1909 11 26

Councillors considered a police report on the auctioneers or cheap-jacks who visit Cambridge Market Hill on Saturday evenings and the Peas Hill in daytime with 'mock' jewellery. It was agreed such persons be not allowed and that in future 'Hoop-la' stalls be not allowed on Market Hill. A suggestion from the Cambridge University Automobile Club as to the placing of mirrors at the Bridge Street end of Jesus Lane was rejected. Drains in City Road and Eden Street were a nuisance and injurious to health, owners should do the necessary work or it will be done by the Surveyor and charged to them. CWN 09 11 26

1910

1910 01 21

Crowds waited on Cambridge market hill for the results of the election. As the hands of the clock dragged with exasperating slowness, the excitement grew even keener. But by half-past ten even the cheering began to subside. "Wish I'd brought my breakfast" said one ruby-faced gentleman whose appearance suggested that he had dined exclusively on beer. "Blooming long time countin' up nine thawsan' votes" said a Barnwellian. Suddenly the Mayor appeared on the Guildhall balcony with the successful candidate. "Buckie's beaten" was the sentence spoken half unconsciously by scores of Buckmaster's supporters as if the brain refused to grasp the significance of what the eye could see. CWN 10 01 21 & a

1910 02 04

Licencing –Cardinal's Cap Guildhall Place - 10 02 04e & f

1911

Number of market stalls reduced by 62 from 250 & roads around square widened [1.24]

1911 01 13

Stall holders on Cambridge Market have been troubled by repeated small thefts. The elusive genius of the pilfering urchin is well known but Cambridge boys have resorted to other devices. One favourite

plan is for two boys to walk past and for one to throw the other's cap on the stall. In recovering the cap the boy generally manages to get an orange or two underneath it. Another is for a boy to have a piece of wood with a nail on the end and to spike an apple or other fruit with it. The police have been keeping a sharp look-out with the result that a lad of 14 was arrested for stealing nougat from Mr Careless's sweet stall. 11 01 13g

1911 03 24

Market Hill fire – 11 03 24a

1911 03 31

The new Labour Exchange in Guildhall Street was visited by large numbers of people, most of whom contented themselves with scanning the red-boarded notices of situations vacant posted up in the windows. But about 40 applicants for work gave their names and some were at once notified of vacancies. Exchanges all over the country are linked up and the Cambridge office communicated by telephone with the Aberdeen Exchange to help a Scottish man find work. There are vacancies for motor repairers, electrical fitters and shorthand typists and a good demand for healthy men expert in pick and shovel work who are willing to go to Australia as railway labourers. 11 03 31e

1911 04 07

Roller Skating Extraordinary. Last evening at the Victoria Rink on Market Hill, Monohan, the most remarkable skater in the world, gave an exhibition which evoked the greatest admiration. He performed many original turns, such as the candle maze, waltzing with a life-sized doll and concluded his wonderful display by jumping over five chairs. 11 04 07e

1911 05 05

The landlady of the Rose public house, Rose Crescent was fined for allowing gambling. Detective Marsh said he went into a room at the back of the bar and saw a young man put money in a penny-in-the-slot machine. He pulled a lever and a ball was forced round. If it had got into a red compartment it paid out two pence but it fell into a white compartment and the money was lost. There was another machine of a different make in the bar. Police had received definite instructions to prosecute in all cases where the machines were found. But there was a similar machine at the Mitre, where it was allowed 11 05 05

1911 08 11

The Cambridge Electric Theatre Company applied for a cinematograph licence to show inflammable films at the Victoria Assembly Rooms on Market Hill. Only non-inflammable films are currently used but these do not give as clear a picture. The lantern chamber was situated outside the building and was fire-proof with iron shutters to block the two openings in the wall. The hall could seat 280 and be cleared in less than two minutes. But there was no back exit and magistrates refused the application 11 08 11h & 18c

1911 10 06

The Cambridge offices of the Board of Trade Labour Exchange have been removed from Guildhall Street to Regent Street and the work of finding and filling vacant situations is going on smoothly. The site near Hyde Park Corner most convenient with larger rooms for men and women. Every effort is made to encourage applicants to make use of the office as a waiting room – not a smoke room – with daily papers and magazines where they may remain in the hope they will be the right person in the right place when a job turns up. 11 10 06

1911 11 24

John Stanley, poulterer of Peas Hill sued the G.E.R. Company for damages sustained in the carriage of 84 ducklings and three geese from Liverpool Street to Cambridge. They were to have been sent by passenger train the same day. But instead they were taken on to Doncaster. He made numerous inquiries but it was not until 9pm that the birds arrived at the station but the GER could not deliver

them until Monday, by which time they would have been bad. But he had an old contract that said the goods were sent at his risk and he lost his case. 11 11 24f

1912 07 12

Women's suffrage meeting, Market Hill – 12 07 12g

1912 07 26

Licensing - Lamb in Guildhall St (details) 12 07 26 o&p

1912 08 02

Whether one is in favour of militancy or not, the courage of those ladies who use it as a means for gaining the vote for women cannot be denied. Two ladies stood on Market Hill on Friday evening and faced the jeers and derision of a gang of rowdy youths who did all they could to make the meeting a farce. Popular songs formed the favourite medium employed for drowning the voices of the speakers and the confusion was heightened by the use of cycle bells and whistles. But Miss Roff and Miss Kate Jarvis persisted and managed to make their arguments audible 12 08 02a

1912 08 16

A meeting of the Women's Social and Political Union was being held and soon after Miss Kathleen Jarvis began her speech the bells of Great St Mary's struck up a deafening peal. The fair speaker's voice, pleasing but not powerful, was almost completely lost and it was only by her gesticulations that the crowd could see she was still expounding her principles. For something like an hour the unequal contest was maintained. And Miss Jarvis was the winner. A woman who had earned three periods of imprisonment was not to be daunted and was still pouring out a stream of argumentative bullets when the ringers retired - 12 08 16aa & b

1912 09 13

Sir - Cambridge fruit costs more on Cambridge market than in London since most cannot be sold locally at any price and is sent to larger towns. Good apples were sent from Histon to Manchester that were sold for a shilling per half bushel. Expenses consumed 10d and the grower got only 2d. But in his own market the grower tries to sell at remunerative prices. The only people who can sell cheaper than market traders are the hawkers. There are dozens of large lorries that hawk all over Cambridge and pay not one penny towards the expenses of the town. Yet market stallholders have to pay a very heavy toll – John Hall 12 09 13f

1912 10 18

Workmen digging at the rear of a shop in Peas Hill discovered the skeleton of a man and women, lying side by side. Nearby is the site of an old monastery and the assumption is that the remains were found in a former burying-ground. If so it knocks the bottom out of one of the best ghost stories in Cambridge, involving a wealthy banker whose young, beautiful wife took a lover who then disappeared. Half a body was later discovered in excavations at the Bijou Theatre Club's cellars. Now it appears they may all be linked. 12 10 18j # c.39 # c.43

1912 10 25

P.C. Smith told the court he was in plain clothes in Trinity Street when he saw an eleven-year-old boy carrying his cap in his hands. It looked rather bulky and was found to contain walnuts. The lad admitted he'd put his hand through a hole at the back of Whitehead's stall on the market and taken them. His mother said he was unruly at home and went out in the evening when he had no business to do so. Magistrates sentenced him to six strokes of the birch. If he re-offended he would be sent to the reformatory school 12 10 25aa

1912 11 01

Women's social & political union meeting Market Hill on suffrage – 12 11 01e

1912 11 15

Fire at Still & Sugar Loaf, Market Hill – 12 11 15a

1912 12 12

When Mrs Pankhurst arrived for a Suffragette meeting at the Guildhall the streets were impassable, 20 policemen were on duty at the entrance and the air was filled with the horrible stench of stink-bombs. Although the audience comprised a large opposition who created a good deal of uproar, the noise gradually diminished as her speech advanced and she was perfectly audible. Georgina Brackbenbury who took the chair had more interruption by the sound of a penny trumpet; its owner was a musician who produced notes mournful or joyous according to her words and achieved a flourishing Reveille. Afterwards crowds ringed a motor car waiting outside the Wheeler Street entrance, which had one of its tyres deflated. But Mrs Pankhurst was quietly conducted out by the Guildhall Street entrance and to the Lion Hotel. 12 12 12c & d & e

1912 12 20

Robert Farren, the well-known Cambridge artist, died at Highgate. Farren, who was born in Cambridge about 80 years ago, lived in Cambridge all his life with the exception of a few years' residence at Scarborough until August last when he went to live in Highgate. He was a very clever water colour artist but best known for his work in oils and his etchings. His fen pictures were well-known and his series of etchings of cathedral cities amongst his most famous work. He also produced fine etchings of the Cambridge Greek plays. His 'Degree Day' was published as a photo by Wm Farren when he lived in Rose Crescent. Farren loved to paint Cambridge & Cambridgeshire scenery and there is scarcely a picturesque 'bit' in the town or county that has not been reproduced by him. At one time he had his studios at the top of which are now the University offices but were formerly a Liberal Club. A good many years ago he resided at Mayfield, Hills Road but during the last three years lived at no.1 Station Road. In his younger days he was a very handsome figure, tall and well-built. He was a skilful fencer and attained some note as a geologist. He married Miss Mason, a Cambridge lady and had a family of 14 children, none of whom are now living in Cambridge, his only relatives being his nephew William Farren, the naturalist, of Regent Street and his brother. Two of his daughters have inherited their father's artistic skill in no small degree. The funeral will take place at Old Chesterton churchyard where his wife is buried. – 12 12 20bb Robert Farren's funeral at Old Chesterton. Three children of his eldest son, the late Ernest Farren live with their mother in Herbert Street 12 12 27b

1913 01 03

Electric Theatre, Market Hill safe raided by attendant

1913 02 21

A fifteen-year-old flower seller was summoned at the Children's Court for causing an obstruction in Market Street. He was offering a bunch of flowers to some ladies and had put his basket on the pavement. There were numbers of people who had shops and sold flowers and it did not seem fair competition for these others to sell in front of their shops. He was cautioned. There had been complaints of hawkers blocking thoroughfares. Another obstruction was caused by empty perambulators being wheeled on the pavements. That was clearly a breach of the law, the Chief Constable told magistrates 13 02 21 p8 CIP

1913 03 14

Four Cabmen were summonsed for taking their cabs on to the Senate House rank when it was already fully occupied and leaving their horses and cabs unattended. Pc Pettitt said there were four unattended cabs standing two abreast facing the reverse way to the other five waiting for business. The rank was authorised for two cabs during the week and three extra on Saturday because the Market Hill rank could not be used then. One man said he'd gone to the lavatory on Market Hill and had asked others to look after his horse. More had been to the coffee shop or had gone to breakfast. They must obey the byelaws. 13 03 14 p8 CIP

1913 04 18

The handsome new Electric Picture Palace being erected on the corner of Covent Garden, Mill Road, is making excellent progress with up to 35 men working on the job. When complete it will have the handsomest front of any place of entertainment in Cambridge. There will be a vestibule where 60 people can wait under shelter and the seats will be of the tip-up variety, upholstered in plush. The Electric Theatre, as well as that on Market Hill, will be under the management of Mr Adrian Jordan but the programmes will be quite distinct. 13 04 18 p9 CIP

1913 04 18

Corn Exchange motor sales banned because of petrol on floor

1913 05 09

Yes! It is true! Perfectly true! That the new Picture Playhouse in Mill Road will open at 2.30 on Whit Monday, and present the strongest picture programme ever seen in Cambridge. It is also true, that an equally strong programme will be presented at the Electric Theatre, Market Hill 13 05 09 p01 CIP

1913 07 04

Women's suffrage meeting Market Hill

1913 07 11

Market Street wood paving not satisfactory – expensive & smelly

1913 07 25

Suffragette meeting, Market Hill - 13 07 25 p12 CIP

1913 08 15

Militant suffragettes Market Hill meeting - 13 08 15 p7 CIP

1913 08 29 CIP

Militant suffragists Market Hill

1913 11 21

18 Peas Hill rebuild – a wretched, verminous house - 13 11 21 p7

1913 12 19

Plans for alterations at the rear of the Guildhall were shelved after the Ratepayers Association raised a petition. They had to face a loss on the trams, the Borough Bill, Chesterton footbridge and other improvements and as the Colleges were building rapidly the town landladies found it hard to pay their rates. Now the County Council had decided to build their new offices in Hobson Street. They had been debating since 1907 and all the expense and time had been worthless. But the Free Library was over-crowded and disease was spread in libraries where people were constantly sitting together 13 12 19 p7 CIP

1914 01 23

Cambridge Ratepayers' Association are proclaiming that they have been the means of "scotching" the Borough Council's scheme for the enlargement of the Guildhall. ... the number of signatures obtained for their monster petition being a plain indication that the great majority of the ratepayers were against such a costly proceeding. One cannot but realise the need which exists for better Public Library accommodation, and it is to be hoped the dropping of the larger scheme will not prevent the work of extending and improving the Library being carried through. 14 01 23 CIP of

1914 02 06

At the opening of the new County Hall in Hobson Street the chairman thanked the Town Council for allowing them to use their council chamber and committee rooms for the past 25 years. In 1747 the old Shire Hall had been built on Market Hill above arches where butchers had their stalls on market

days. In 1842 this passed to the town when a new Shire Hall at Castle Hill was ready for occupation. But the enormous development of administrative business had now brought the County Council again into the centre to this new commodious and economical building, finally bringing together departments previously distributed in all parts of the town. 14 02 06, a-c

1914 02 13

"Brawling" in Church.- Interruptions in Divine Service were made at Holy Trinity Church, St. Matthew's Church and the Friends' Meeting House by militant suffragettes. Militant methods of madness have already put a brake on the advancement of an. excellent movement and the disturbance of church worshippers is no argument in favour of votes for women 14 02 13 CIPof

1914 03 27

Proposals for extra accommodation for the Library, Education Department, Juvenile Employment Exchange and Weights and Measures Department on the site now occupied by houses in Wheeler Street prompted long discussions. Nearly every councillor found it incumbent to express his opinions and an hour was passed away more or less pleasantly and profitably in this fashion. 14 03 27h

1914 04 10

Opposition to Guildhall Enlargement - resolution condemns ... if the Corporation require further accommodation for their officials, they should hire offices outside for the Education Department 14 04 10 CIPof

1914 04 17

The unhappy conjunction of the name Sadd and Greef on King's Parade has been a well-worn joke. Now it is about to be broken. Mr Sadd is soon to move to premises in St Edward's Passage while Mr Greef is moving further up the Parade. The Sadds began business last century as dealer in antiques and a hairdresser in one of a row of old-fashioned houses standing in front of King's College. When the cottages were pulled down they moved opposite. His son made a sketch of the old houses 14 04 17g

1914 05 22

Cambridge Library was one of the finest in the country but all available floor space was utilised and extensions must be made, especially to relieve congestion in the Reference department. They should develop the site now occupied by houses in Wheeler Street and adjoining vacant land, councillors heard. But a library was a luxury and ratepayers did not want it. The plan was agreed 14 05 22f & g

1914 06 04

An alarming accident happened in Petty Cury. Outside Mr A.E. Nichol's shop at the corner of Guildhall Street there are large incandescent globes suspended. One of these globes, which was illuminated, suddenly collapsed and struck the pavement with an alarming crash. The street was crowded at the time and it was marvellous that no one was hurt. The globe fell at the feet of a bystander who luckily was not injured, though glass was scattered in all directions 14 06 04 p9

1914 07 10

Suffragette campaign Market Hill: Cambridge Women's Suffrage Association organising a series of open-air meetings on Market Hill every Tuesday evening during July

1914 08 07

The Cambridge squadron of the Royal Suffolk Yeomanry paraded and were sent to their billets at Ross Street School and the County Girls School. A number of others were quartered in the Corn Exchange. The streets presented a military appearance. Territorials in uniform carrying their kit bags and rifles were to be seen. Officers in motorcars or motor cycles and orderlies on bicycles were hurrying to and fro, sentries with fixed bayonets were posted at the Corn Exchange and vehicular traffic stopped by the police

1914 08 07

Men of the First Eastern General Hospital were quartered in Corn Exchange Street. An elaborate scheme was drawn up for constituting Cambridge a great hospital centre and the various college buildings were mapped out for conversion into wards. But this scheme is intended in case of invasion and it is to be hoped will never be needed. At present the need is for accommodation at places where wounded men are likely to be landed

1914 08 14

There has been a splendid response to Lord Kitchener's appeal for men; each day large numbers have signed on at the Corn Exchange including Jack Child, the well-known boxer Langley as despatch rider 14 08 14 p5

1914 09 18

There were at present about 1,000 soldiers based in Cambridge with another 1,000 expected. All the tents were being used by other troops and winter was coming. The Corn Exchange was unsatisfactory because of the small sanitary arrangements. The Girls' and Boys' county school were already being used and now the military wanted Morley Memorial and the Melbourne Place schools for the training of recruits. Emmanuel Church was prepared to give the free use of their schoolroom for the education of the children. The alternative was billeting troops on the better class houses where better class people could supervise them. But the University had been approached and the schools might not be needed, councillors heard.

1914 10 02

Guildhall extension for library, education offices, juvenile bureau and Medical Officer of Health 14 10 02

1914 10 16

Another trainload of wounded Belgian soldiers arrived at the station and were taken to the Hospital at Trinity College. Now 100 Belgian refugees are expected who will be housed temporarily in the Corn Exchange before they are found homes. Not many households can take a whole family but streets might share them. Professors from the University of Louvain professors have arrived and a room at the Engineering Laboratory made available for lectures

1914 11 20

Death of Mr. A. W. Rose. The news of the death of Mr. Arthur William Rose, of Market Hill, and Peas Hill, Cambridge, was received with widespread regret on Tuesday by a large number of friends. Mr. Rose had suffered from heart trouble for a considerable time, but he had been able to attend to his business up to Wednesday of last week. On that day he was caught in a rainstorm and contracted a chill, from the effects of which he never recovered. Death ensued at 6.30 on Monday morning. Mr. Rose was born at Cottenham on November 1, 1868. He entered into partnership with Mr. Lawrence about 20 years ago, and together they carried on the business of a butcher at 37, Market Hill, and 22 Peas Hill. The partnership lasted for about two years, and on the death of Mr. Lawrence the business passed into the possession of Mr. Rose. Open-hearted and generous, Mr. Rose made a wide circle of friends in Cambridge, and he was held in the greatest respect by local tradesmen. About 15 years ago he interested himself in the formation of a Butchers' Association in Cambridge, and he was one of the foundation members. For a considerable time he was treasurer of the Association. He was a sidesman of Great St. Mary's Church. Mr. Rose leaves a widow and one son.

1914 12 11

Fishmonger's child scarlet fever, Peas Hill stall

1914 12 18

Taxis allowed Market Hill near GSM

1915 07 16

Guildhall extension accounts debate, includes payment made to E.C. Meech, tobacconist whose premises have been demolished for new building 15 07 16 p6

1915 08 27

Electric Theatre refurbished & reopened as Victoria Cinema. A.J. pointer applies for cinematograph exhibition at the Victoria Cinema ... had held licence for music and dancing since April and for four years the premises had been used for cinema shows under a music and dancing licence. As intended to show some recruiting pictures which used 'inflammable' films was necessary to obtain formal licence. Floor had been lowered, main gangway 4ft wide. The film chamber built outside main building with automatic shutters, could be emptied in less than two minutes 15 08 27 p4

1915 09 10

Servant stole from Three Tuns, Peas Hill

1916 03 01

Snow photos: snow plough, clearing snow Market St, bus, snow balling – 16 03 01a

1916 03 08

Egg stall on Market for wounded – 16 03 08f

1916 05 10

Reference Library and Education department, Peas Hill – photo & details – 16 05 10c

1916 05 17

Seat on Market Hill for use of wounded soldiers – photo – 16 05 17b

1916 06 21

Decorated.—Lt. Alex E. Bonham. 11th Royal Warwicks, who was when war broke out, a class master at East Road Boys' School, has been awarded the Military Cross. Lance Corporal W. Hassock, London Rifles (who, previous to joining up was employed by Messrs. W and R. Fletcher, Ltd., Peas Hill) has been awarded the D.C.M He was attached to a machine-gun section and continued to work his gun when all his comrades had fallen

1916 07 05

French inspects OCC & Territorial recruits, Parkers Piece & Volunteers on Market Hill
[1.15,7.7,7.20]

1916 08 02

VTC leave from Market for march to Trumpington – photo – 16 08 02a

1916 12 13

Temperance Worker. His many friends in Cambridge and district have learned with considerable regret of the pending departure of Mr. Horace Brown, the known temperance worker and advocate, a regret which is shared by Town, County and University residents who have, in business matters, been brought into contact with him. Mr. Horace Brown has been a member of the Cambs. Band of Hope Union Executive Committee, representing the Eastern Division for the past three years, whilst he took a leading part in the Band of Hope pageants which were presented at Cambridge with so much success, his role being respectively Oliver Cromwell and the Mayor in "Stourbridge Fair". He has been in the employ of the Midland and L. and N.W. Railways for 17 years and during the past ten years has been in charge of the joint inquiry office at Market Hill, Cambridge.

1917 05 30

Empire Day. Empire Day was officially celebrated at Cambridge by the assembling of a large number of schoolchildren on the Market Place, where the Mayor (Lieut.-Col. B. W. Beales) read the King's

Proclamation on food rationing, and the children sang a hymn and the National Anthem and raised three hearty cheers for His Majesty Photos of mobilisation at start of war – Market Hill, leaving from railway station for training, French inspects troops – 18 11 20d

1917 12 26

Margarine Queues - The queues, which have been getting larger day by day in Petty Cury, assumed such alarming dimensions on Saturday that one person at least was injured and others fainted. Margarine was the chief commodity sought, a supply having been delayed the day before owing to the fog. The Borough Food Control Committee took commendable action to consider how best to relieve the situation. They suggested that traders should transfer their stocks of margarine to the Corn Exchange and sell it there, and the Committee would give them every facility; they also suggested the margarine should only be sold in 1lbs, or multiples of 1lb. Some was transferred and between 2 and 4 o'clock 1,000 transactions in margarine had taken place. The people were arranged in queues outside the hall. The margarine was put up in 1lb and 2 lb packages, the limit to each person being 2 lb. Everything went off without a hitch

1918 11 20

Armistice Celebrated. Cambridge "let itself go" with full vigour on November 11 on receipt of the news that the Germans had accepted and signed the drastic armistice terms of the Allies, and the rejoicings were kept up on every evening throughout the week. The effigy of the Kaiser was hoisted on the point of a bayonet and carried through the streets, to be consigned to the flames of a Market Hill bonfire one evening. A cadet, attired as a padre, attended to the "obsequies". Later processions of cadets met on the Market Hill engaged in a Big Push. Premises occupied by the "Cambridge Magazine" at the corner of St. John's Street were wrecked by a crowd. Two other shops in the same occupation were treated in similar fashion Alleged German guns on view Market Hill; these samples of scrap iron should be consigned rubbish heap, 18 11 20v – photo – 19 04 30d

1919 07 09

Peace Sunday proclamation on Market Hill – 19 07 09a

1919 09 10

Cattle market as now conducted is of no value to town ... a waste of expensive shoe leather. Previously could purchase a fowl or duck ready for table at a reasonable price, the Cambridge 'yard' of butter, eggs, fruit, meat etc. Now a dump for where high prices are rule. Patrons are those fairly comfortable who desire freshly-produced vegetables and are prepared to pay for them at prices dearer than in shops. On Saturday was fairly brisk competition in fish, meat stalls doing food business. An open market is wanted every day on Market Hill to bring down prices and dispose of tons of produce which will otherwise go rotten. Are already hawkers of fruit and vegetables. During trade depression some traders had a hard struggle; employees now coming back but require more wages to meet the rising cost of living. Fair competition doesn't cause anxiety but the open market is unfair. They buy wholesale, hire a stall for a negligible sum and sell at small margin of profit – debate – 19 09 10

1919 04 23

Captured German Guns. Two captured German field guns are being exhibited on the Market Hill Cambridge but are however attracting comparatively little attention

1919 06 25

Jubilee Tour. Cambridge was the first town of importance visited by Mrs. General Booth of the Salvation Army, on her Jubilee tour, which commenced on Friday. The "Generaless" arrived at Cambridge by motor on Saturday evening and was received on the Market Hill by Alderman Sidney Campkin, who delivered an address of welcome. Mrs. Booth spoke to a large crowd who had assembled.

1919 10 22

Two new cinemas proposed, Sidney Street by Cambridge Picture Playhouse Ltd and Guildhall Street by A.J. Pointer – 19 10 22f

1919 11 12

"Fifth" fizzles at Cambridge. The stage was set on Wednesday evening for an old-time celebration of the 5th of November. Proctors, "bulldogs," special constables, mounted police, mere "Roberts", undergraduates, townspeople and schoolboys turned out to play their respective roles, but nothing happened. A few fire-works - cannons, crackers etc - were discharged on Market Hill but the proceedings were almost as tame as the original affair arranged by Mr. Guy Fawkes and a few of his fanatical friends.

1920

1920 01 21

Plans for new cinema in Guildhall St & Guildhall Place to be erected by A.J. Pointer of Victoria Cinema considered – 20 01 21a

1920 03 23

Property sales 56 years ago – no.1 Market Hill, Petty Cury including Boots site

1920 04 03

Building of new cinemas in Sussex Street and Guildhall Street vetoed by council

1920 10 20

Proposed Kinema. At their meeting tomorrow, the Borough Council will be recommended by the Plans Committee to rescind their resolutions which placed a veto on the erection of the proposed kinema in Guildhall Street, and to give permission for the existing buildings to be demolished. The minute of the Plans Committee dealing with the matter states: A letter was read from Mr. A. J. Pointer, stating that a building on the site proposed to be used for the erection of a kinema would be unoccupied by the 25th October 1920, and asking that he might be allowed to proceed with the building of a kinema in Guildhall Street.

1920 10 28

Council approve demolition of buildings in Guildhall Street on site acquired by A.J. Pointer for an up-to-date Kinema – 20 10 28b c

1920 11 03

St Benet's war memorial unveiled – 20 11 03a

1920 11 12

Armistice 'Rag', chariot of flame on Market Hill, siege of Newnham College, burst through gates where for half hour of bliss ... few odd battalions of infuriated Dons and hysterical Newnhamites, police charge

1921 11 16

Charlie Chaplin film in Guildhall, staged by A.J. Pointer of Victoria Cinema – 21 11 16a

1922 06 13

"May week" has reached its second phase and the gaiety of the "Boats" has given places to a wonderful round of college balls and concerts. The May Week Ball of the First and Third Trinity Boat Clubs was probably one of the largest affairs of the kind that has ever been held in Cambridge. Hitherto, owing to a lack of accommodation the numbers attending has had to be restricted to about 650. Mr D.G. Marshall of Jesus Lane, however, found a way out of the difficulty with a somewhat novel scheme. A marquee 100 feet by 40 feet was erected on Market Hill facing the Guildhall and therein supper was laid. A delightfully cool effect was obtained by leaving open a part of the side of

the tent nearest the fountain and having the fountain lit up with coloured electric lights in the background. Provision was made for some 1,100 guests and supper was served in three relays of 375 each, a special staff of chefs from the House of Commons was specially engaged for the occasion

1922 11 06

A lamp-boy, G.E.R. of Thoday street, Cambridge was summoned for throwing a firework on Senate House-hill on 4th inst. - Fined 1s. Ten shillings was the fine imposed upon an undergraduate of Trinity College for a similar offence on Market-hill. Defendant said he did not know they were arresting people for letting fireworks off, or else he would not have been foot enough to do so in front of half the police force. An undergraduate of Corpus Christi who was fined 10/- stated that he came on to the square and saw a lot of police loafing about so he thought he would like to throw some fireworks

1922 11 10

Armistice Day - Remembrance Day as many people prefer to call it - once again comes round tomorrow. The occasion will be observed with all the solemnity of former years by all, not excepting the exuberant spirits who will participate in a promised 'Varsity "rag" for they will hold their noise at 11am and join with the rest in the two minutes' silence which will ensue throughout the country. The "rag" will take the form of a "circus". Undergraduates will be attired in the skins of wild animals. It is rumoured that the effigy of the ex- Kaiser will be burnt at the stake on Market Hill in the evening!

1922 11 11

As in every other town and village throughout the land the Two Minutes Silence was observed in Cambridge today. In the streets traffic was stopped by the police and pedestrians stood just where they were when the first maroon went off. Market Hill was densely crowded and as the Guildhall clock started to chime men stood to attention and removed their hats, all movement ceased and the traffic stopped. The only sounds to be heard were the crying of one or two babies. Shortly before the second maroon a shuffling step was heard coming slowly along the Cury, a few turned their heads and saw an old man who, apparently oblivious, kept on his way undisturbed until a penetrating hiss: "Stand still, Beaver!" brought him back to this world and he stood with the rest of mankind

1923 01 08

The staff of the "Cambridge Daily News" had a night off on Saturday when they sat down to dinner together in "The Dug-Out", Guildhall Street, Cambridge. It was the first gathering of the kind for very many years. Mr A.C. Taylor (managing director) said he had tried to carry on the good work that his father had done in the town. He had the advantage of a loyal staff and he knew that on them depended the actual work during the few years that he was trying to pick up the threads of newspapers. Mr Morley Stuart (Editor) said some of the staff who had been working together for a good many years and had passed through some rather strenuous times had felt it would be a good thing if they could meet round the dinner table. It helped to rub off the rough edges and to enable them to understand each other better.

1923 01 26

A shop without a sale is like a ship without a rudder. Surplus stock must be sold at all cost. We must turn our stock over, that is why we offer such knock-out bargains. Boys and youths' overcoats in naps, cheviots and all-woo blanket cloths from 5s.11d. Boys' knickers in splendid wearing quality materials from 1s. Ladies' coats for winter wear in various blanket cloths, well-tailored, absolute bargains from 6s.11d. Special sale bargains for tomorrow - 300 men's caps 1s. Northern Clothing Co., 9 Guildhall Street (opposite Corn Exchange), Cambridge – advert

1923 01 29

The third annual meeting of the Cambridgeshire Federation of Women's Institutes was held in the Cambridge Guildhall. Representatives from 28 out of 29 institutes attended and steady expansion was reported in all branches. The office and shop at 10 St Edward's Passage has been a great factor in this advance. Institute members now have a central meeting place where they can view each other's work

and exchange ideas, whilst inhabitants of Cambridge have the opportunity of getting into touch with country women and are glad to profit from the results of the homecrafts practiced by their country sisters

1923 03 27 c

The forthcoming production by the Bijou amateurs brings into prominence once again a club that has held a big position in the life of Cambridge for the last 50 years. In 1870 Mr W B Redfern founded the Bijous, who took over premises on Peas Hill, where for many years was provided the only dramatic performance in Cambridge that were given with any regularity. As time went on the club found that the old Peas Hill theatre was not big enough for them and finally removed to the old skating rink in St Andrews's street, on the site of which the present New Theatre was built. It was not until 1881 that ladies were introduced into the cast, the female parts having before that date been taken by men

1923 06 16

A remarkable story of how a large sum of money was snatched from the jaws of death, as typified by the corporation refuse destructor reached me the other day. It appears that a certain tradesman on Peas Hill, Cambridge, had by some strange mischance consigned a wallet containing money to the dustbin. A frenzied telephone message to the contractor revealed that one of his dustcarts had collected at the address that day. The cart was searched, but without success. Eventually the missing wallet was discovered on the very threshold of destruction and found to contain Treasury notes to the value of between £200 and £300. Some people back Derby winners and others have luck in other directions.

1923 08 17

A meeting was held on Cambridge Market Hill under the auspices of the local branch of the World's League Against Vivisection. Some hundreds gathered around the first speaker who was heard amid a running series of questions and interruptions. He gallantly held his post for over an hour, and many of his points were agreed to, even by opponents of the movement generously. Certain diseases had been lowered during the last 50 years in response to sanitary improvements, he said, but no direct evidence could be found as to any decrease of the death rate as a result of vivisection.

1923 09 07

The death took place early this morning of Mr Ebenezer Peters, a partner in the firm of Peters, Elworthy and Moore, accountants and auditors. He was born in Cambridge & commenced his business career with the late Mr Dixon, bookseller, Market Street. He then joined his brother and formed the partnership of Peters Brothers over 40 years ago, carrying out the duties of assessor and collector of taxes from then up to the time of his death

1923 10 24

Sir - Permit me to enter a strong protest against Cambridge town council "improvements". Take the following, with all of which we are now threatened. The detestable proposal to improve St Mary's Street by lopping off nine feet of church yard; the very pleasant little old world Emmanuel St to be made banal by altering its lines and proportions; Coe fen to be utterly ruined for ever by cutting a new road for motors. And who in their right mind would dream of building public baths in so outlying and unattractive a suburb as Gwydir Street. - Delta

1923 10 29

The seventh bell at Great St Mary's Church, Cambridge, which was cracked on armistice night by some over-enthusiastic revellers, has just been returned from the founders. It now inclined on a pedestal in the nave of the Church awaiting re-fixing in the tower, and there it will stay until paid for. The cost of taking down, re-casting and re-fixing is close on £100. The bell was originally cast in 1667, and recast in 1723 c23 10 29

1923 11 03

The subject of the censorship of cinematograph films came before the Cambridgeshire county council. They agreed that no film - other than photographs of current events - which has not been

passed for universal exhibition by British Board of Film Censors shall be exhibited without the consent of the council. The Vice Chancellor thought that films such as those of the rags on Market Hill, he personally would be very glad to see stopped. (Laughter.) If there were no films of "rags" there would be no "rags" to film. (Laughter)

1923 11 06

Cambridge would be disappointed indeed if the Fifth of November failed to produce a rag of some sort. Last night's effort was, to say the least of it, feeble and was sustained for the most part by such residents of the town as come out for excitement on such occasions, and a handful of very callow freshmen. Fireworks there were in plenty, but the old spirit was lacking. Had it not been for the mounted police and the proctors, the market square would have been its usual desolate self soon after 9.30 pm. It was noticeable that as soon as the mounted police left the crowd decreased by 50 per cent.

1923 11 06

One hundred years ago the Royal and ancient game of rugby football was initiated, and today an alleged representation of the first game was given in Cambridge market square. Some time before noon the square was roped off and surrounded by police. The fountain was converted into a Royal box and the telephone kiosk into a press box. At noon the teams marched on to the ground. At their head was carried a large and considerably elongated football on a butchers tray. With the teams marched a portly and bearded Proctor, complete with "bullers" and a nasty looking birch, which he did not hesitate to use when occasion demanded

1923 11 10

The Sun had dispelled a heavy fog when the Cambridgeshire regiment, headed by their regimental band arrived on Cambridge Market Hill and formed three sides of a hollow square. There was almost complete silence, broken only by some restive motor in an adjoining street. Then the beautiful chimes of Great St Mary's struck the hour. A few seconds later came the report of the maroon and automatically the parade sprang to attention. Our thoughts were with a glorious dead, and of all they had suffered in those years of agony. And then ... boom! A role on the drums broke in on the silence, and the buglers sounded the "Last Post"

1923 11 10

A merry and light-hearted party of undergraduates, despite police vigilance, succeeded in obtaining their hearts desire - they manage to light a fire on Market Hill. Certain of the undergraduate community attracted the attention of some constables to a gas lamp on the one corner of the square. They demonstrated a desire to figure on the charge sheet of the police court by the charmingly simple process of putting out the light. The police "fell for it" and kept watch on that particular part of the market place. Meanwhile another body of the faithful rushed on to the Market Hill with a rowing eight filled with petrol and had it alight before people realised what was towards.

1923 11 24

Sir with reference to the continuation bus service from Chesterton to Old Chesterton, I would like to point out that we ran the service in 1919 but it was an absolute failure and we were compelled to drop it. However as there seems to be a fresh demand I am giving it a trial. The terminus of the cars will be at Chapel Street, Old Chesterton, instead of De Freville Avenue as heretofore. The fare from Market Street to Chapel Street will be twopence. You will realise that it is quite impossible to revert to the penny fare over the whole of the services. It is true that the price of petrol has dropped, but the price of wages and labour generally has not decreased - John Walford, Ortona Motor Company

1923 12 06

Elections, like boots, beer and, of course, bananas, are generally held to be much below pre-war standard. Some of the old spirit seems to have been awakened in the campaign which closed last night, and a "certain liveliness" on Cambridge Market Hill was slightly reminiscent of the old eve of the poll scenes. Many discussions were hastily adjourned as dense clouds of acrid smoke from a smoke bomb rolled down on them, and there was a gentle scramble for some minutes. While this was

going on an agile disciple of Tarzan shinned up a lamppost and revived the ancient pastime of “dousing the glim”. A slick-handed undergraduate switched on a constable’s lamp attached to the latter’s belt at the rear, and the limb of the law strode around blissfully unconscious of the shining light behind.

1924 02 04c

Algernon Sydney Campkin was the last survivor of a family who had for several generations farmed land at Melbourn. In 1861 he was articled to a chemist and druggist and subsequently in 1868 succeeded to the old-established business of the late Mr William Brewster, an apothecary of some eminence in Rose Crescent, Cambridge, which he very successfully conducted up to the time of his death.

1924 04

Crowds on Market Hill listen to Kings speech at opening of Wembley exhibition [2.12]

1924 07 14c

Cambridge is shortly to lose a rendezvous which has become very popular in the years succeeding the war. I refer to the “Dug-Out” which, with the Black Swan public house next door (in Guildhall Place) has been sold to the University Catholic Association. It is their intention to transform the premises into a centre for Roman Catholic undergraduates

1924 11 08c

The night of the 5th of November was clear and calm, and there was a bright moon to light the way of revellers – ideal conditions for a “rag”. So evidently thought a large crowd of undergraduates and townsmen that gathered on Cambridge Market Hill in hopes. Police stood around in little groups taking a giving chaff good humouredly with the crowd. Squibs and occasional small rockets broke the peace and were heralded by faint cheers and feminine shrieks if they happened to go off in the press. The first intimation of anything interesting was the sight of a small youth, pale and very troubled looking, marching up St Andrew’s street, firmly held by a constabulary hand.

1925 01 19

Petty Cury and Market Street, Cambridge, today commenced their career as one-way streets with the object of relieving congestion in these streets whose narrowness has ever been the subject of discussion. Petty Cury will only be used for vehicular traffic towards Market Hill. At present these regulations do not apply to bicycles. A policeman agreed that someone was bound to make a mistake – “It wouldn’t be Cambridge if they didn’t”, he said

1925 02 19

For the University Pitt Club ball the Guildhall has always been very cleverly decorated. The Large Room served as ballroom, the orchestra seats hidden behind tapestry hangings. There were close on 400 dancers. As a buffet the Small Room has seldom looked better. Supper was served in the Corn Exchange, access to which was gained by means of a covered way connecting it with the Guildhall. The fare provided was most appetising. Our representative gazed with pardonable envy upon a well-dressed boar’s head, a swan with a waxen neck and other fine fare.

1925 03 09

The bright idea was to unveil a ‘statue’ of Eros on Cambridge Market Hill, but they did not appear till quite three-quarters of an hour late. The crowd got tired of waiting and certain of their number pelted some adventurous spirits perched on the Market cross with oranges, and this little incident led to a general exchange of soft and ‘squashy’ fruit. Oranges gave place to tomatoes, which were followed by eggs and bags of flour. Besides being unpleasant, practice of this sort is dangerous.

1925 06 06

Very many residents of Cambridge who in their leisure moments wander round the Market Place to see what literary treasure may there be picked up will be interested in a movement set on foot by

prominent members of the University to do honour to Mr G. David, the well-known bookseller, who has had a stall there for close on thirty years. A luncheon will be given in the Old Combination Room, Trinity College in appreciation of the conspicuous service he has rendered to the cause of humane letters.

1925 07 07

The Ministry of Transport inquiry into the one-way vehicular traffic scheme in Petty Cury & Market Street, Cambridge, was held in the Guildhall. There was a very small attendance. Cambridge suffered, in common with other old towns, from the traffic problem. There had always been a great deal of traffic in these streets and the congestion was very serious. Both streets were used by motor buses. There were no objections but a great body of people wanted the regulation to cover bicycles as well as other vehicles.

1925 11 06

Cambridge usually expects a 'rag' on Guy Fawkes' night but this year's affair was of a harmless character, plenty of noise being the chief characteristic. Fireworks galore were discharged and the Market Hill was occasionally lit up with flame-coloured flares. But this was rather a tame sort of amusement for undergraduates and they proceeded to accomplish the now stale feat of extinguishing the gas lamps in the neighbourhood of the Hill. Some undergrads took it into their heads to relight the lamps in the centre, which enabled one of their number to climb the fountain on the top of which something indistinguishable was placed. This being done out went the lamps again, coins being the smashing factor once more.

1925 12 01

Sir – The scenes on Sunday night in Petty Cury & Market Hill, Cambridge are disgraceful. Low hobbydehop youths and flat-chested flappers congregate and parade, whistling and shouting after each other and using language that would shame Billingsgate. Surely the police can put an end to such disgraceful proceedings – A.E.C.

1926 06 15

One of the contingents of Women Peacemakers who are converging on London from various parts of the country arrived in Cambridge. Meetings had been held in village after village by the side of the war memorials. They were met by members of the local Pilgrimage Committee and proceeded to the Market Hill where an impromptu meeting was held. They carried various banners and red and blue flags. Mrs Rackham said the gathering recalled the great Women's Suffrage Pilgrimage of 1913 when crowds gathered on the same spot. The Pilgrims leave for Saffron Walden tomorrow.

1926 09 07

A vivid flash followed by a terrific explosion occurred last night and at about the same time various people in Cambridge declare that they, too, saw a peculiar flare in the sky. No noise was heard. A police constable described the flash as lasting from five to six seconds and as making it appear as bright moonlight. Miss G. Gould, who was in charge of the coffee stall on Market Hill, said the whole of the sky in the south was lit up for about five seconds by a blue flame. A member of the "Stop! Look! and Listen" company said she noticed a vivid flash from her dressing room window.

1926 11 27

The Cambridge Central Conservative Club in Market Passage was gutted by fire in the early hours of the morning. There were a large number of trade premises nearby and the task of saving the club, with flames nearly 100 feet high, appearing a hopeless one the Fire Brigade concentrated on confining the conflagration to the one building. Had there been a strong wind a centre of shopping would have been destroyed. The Central Hall, which had been booked for many social events for months ahead, suffered severely. The billiards room, which contained four splendid tables also suffered considerably; two of the tables fell through the floor. The club was opened in February 1888

1927 02 10

Since the Cambridge Conservative Club in Market Passage had been destroyed by fire there had been many busybodies who knew exactly what was going to happen to the club premises and the site. The Chairman could now tell them: it was going to be rebuilt and rise like a Phoenix from the ashes. A very satisfactory arrangement had been made with the Northern Insurance Company and they had today received a cheque from the company.

1927 03 03

Sir – I read of the sale of the old-established grocery and provision business of Hallack and Bond. It is regrettable that the ownership of another great business passes away from Cambridge. To many the name has been a by-word and a guarantee of quality and good service through the personal supervision of people resident in Cambridge. This must become a serious menace to the welfare of the town and all good citizens should avail themselves of the service ably rendered by locally owned firms - Loyal Citizen 27 04 03

1927 03 21

It must be 25 years since the seats and fences of Clare Hall Pieces were burnt on the Cambridge Market Hill. With the increasing number of visitors the lack of seats on the Backs is often felt and now that Cambridge attractions are being advertised the placing of seats in this favourite spot, where so many visitors go to view the west elevation of King's Chapel would be appreciated by many

1927 04 06

Great St Mary's church council replied to the Corporation's plans to widen St Mary's Street. They cannot sanction obtaining a faculty for the proposed work as increased heavy motor traffic coming so close to the church will be a very real danger to the safety of the foundations and fabric. Widening the street would create a death-trap and they propose to adopt every means in their power to prevent the scheme being carried out.

1927 06 09

Cambridge Undergraduates took upon themselves the duty of opening "Joanna Southcott's" famous box on the Market Hill. A crowd of mammoth proportions assembled. A melancholy dirge was heard from Petty Cury and there appeared a party of pipers and following them in one of Dale's lorries came a weird array of 24 "bishops" and a delegation of "Mormons" wearing huge straw sombreros. One "archbishop" proceeded to open the box, producing several layers of red tape, a teddy bear, a pair of old football boots and a number of bananas with which he pelted the crowd. The "rag" was organised to provide funds for the Cambridge Fruiting Campaign to help strawberry pickers in the Wisbech area.

1927 07 13

Last stretch of tram lines removed from St Mary's street [3.6]

1927 07 23

Cambridge council considered the erection of advertising boards by the Empire Marketing Committee at Corn Exchange Street, Market Hill, Drummer Street, Butts Green, Northampton Street and the Cattle Market. But the path in Corn Exchange Street was only five feet wide and it would be dangerous if people stopped there to look at it. They would have to put up another sign, "Safety first. Passengers must not stop to look at this advertisement". (Laughter).

1927 08 12

An outstanding feature in the reconstruction of our new premises at 2, Market Hill, Cambridge, are the windows which are unique for a grocery business and compare in style with a London west-end store. We welcome an opportunity of showing you a store fitted and stocked in the most complete and scientific manner and where prized traditions inherited from our predecessors (Messrs Hallack and Bond) are upheld and carried forward with modern equipment. Shoppers may actually see their coffee roasted and ground. International Stores, the greatest grocers in the world. Advert.

1927 09 19

Premises in Peas Hill, Cambridge, may be acquired for the purpose of extending the Guildhall. Trinity Hall, the owners of nos 15 & 16 will sell for £5,500; Mr Sennitt will sell no.17 for £3,500, the price to include compensation for disturbance of the business and the tenant to have the option of hiring the premises until required by the Corporation. Corpus Christi College has agreed £2,200 for no.19. The Council is to apply to the Minister of Health for sanction to borrow the sum of £11,700 for the purchase 27 09 19

1927 11 17

Described as one of the finest shop sites in Cambridge, no.3 Petty Cury was offered for sale by auction. The shop, now in the occupation of Mrs Kemp as a toy and fancy warehouse, was offered with vacant possession and is freehold. The auctioneer mentioned the tremendous difference that would be made to the Market Square end of Petty Cury by the opening up of a big new shop at the corner. Bidding quickly rose to £7,350 but did not reach the reserve price and was withdrawn. Immediately after the auction it was sold privately.

1927 12 15 c

Many a charming gift can be purchased at a chemist's shop. Ladies always find scent very acceptable and at Messrs Campkin and Sons, Rose Crescent, Cambridge, there can be obtained a choice selection of perfume. Soap and bath salts in dainty packages, or toilet brushware are suggestions that may help to solve the gift problems for those whose pockets are not very deep.

1927 12 17

Cambridge Conservatives who, following the disastrous fire in Market Passage in November last year, have been accommodated in temporary club premises in Petty Cury, returned to the splendid new club which Phoenix-like has risen from the ashes of the old premises. As before there is a fine lounge billiard room with four tables on the top floor, and a fine lounge and smokeroom with secretary's office and card room adjoining. Two new rooms will be used as a reading and writing room and a committee room. The colour scheme is brown and buff. The ground floor is not yet complete but will consist of a large hall with a spring dance

1928 01 10

The Toft carrier, Mr John Chapman, lost his balance when getting into his cart while owing to a strong gust of wind, and fell heavily, striking his head on the ground. For the past 43 years as a carrier and egg and poultry dealer he has regularly attended the Cambridge market on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Although 78 years of age he was a man of exceptional vitality, able to carry on his business with all the energy and vigour of his former days.

1928 01 10

An inquiry was held into proposals to alter the charges for stalls on Cambridge market. There were 112 stalls, 64 of which were interior stalls but some, particularly those at the four corners of the market were more valuable than others. The present charge was 2s. 6d. per day and it was proposed to increase it to 6s. 10s for corner stalls, with frontage stalls increased to 4s.8d and the interior stalls raised to 3s. 4d. But the proposals had not been received with enthusiasm by the traders.

1928 01 23

An inquiry was held into Cambridge council's application to borrow money for the purchase of property in Peas Hill for an extension of the Guildhall. There was an increase of administrative staff and the offices were not adequate to enable the duties to be carried out efficiently. With the acquisition of the property the Corporation would hold the entire island site which would facilitate the suggested scheme for the reconstruction of the Guildhall. They had been met in a conciliatory spirit by the owners of the property and a favourable provisional agreement had been arrived at 28 01 23

1928 06 07

A dealer who kept a stall at Cambridge market and said that a few years' back he was taking big money and making a profit of £7 a week, ascribed his failure to a variety of causes. They included bad weather, law costs and keen competition since Woolworth's Stores had been opened. He bought a Ford lorry but it caught fire as he was going to Lakenheath for a sale and all the goods were burnt at the roadside.

1928 10 19

The 'Cambridge Chronicle' newspaper applied for a renewal of the lease of their printing works in Market Hill. For the last 100 years they have carried on business there, they were the best-known works of the kind and if they were obliged to quit the machinery and plant would be very costly to transfer. But the owner said she intended to pull down the premises to carry out a scheme of development.

1928 10 23

What is probably the largest single deal in Cambridge business property ever known has just been completed. A well-known local young man has purchased property with frontages in Market Hill, Petty Cury and Sidney Street and this will be developed by a company consisting of Cambridge people. It includes premises occupied by the Craft Shoe Company, the Cambridge Chronicle offices and printing works and Boots the chemist. As Messrs Boots recently secured a large amount of property in Petty Cury and Sidney Street it would appear that big changes will be seen in this part of town when both sites are developed.

1928 10 27

There is much speculation regarding the £42,000 Cambridge Market Hill deal; a large cinema and café are spoken of, but there are no details at present. It would be for the benefit of the town if the whole island site could be taken over by the Corporation; then as the leases run out it could be cleared and would provide a magnificent site for municipal buildings. Road traffic now demands that all building operations should be planned for what will be needed in the future, with a wider Petty Cury, Market Hill and Sidney Street. Something of the sort must eventually be done unless it is the intention to remove the Guildhall and market nearer the station.

1928 11 20

Earlier we gave details of a £42,000 deal in Cambridge Market Hill; now we can reveal proposals to build a super Victoria Cinema that will accommodate about 1,800 people and embody all the latest improvements with the most comfortable seating and an excellent orchestra. Large waiting lounges will be included to accommodate all queues in the building and protect patrons from the weather. A luxurious café restaurant is also promised. We are unable to state whether apparatus for 'talkies' will be included but no doubt if this art develops sufficiently well in time this new asset will not be overlooked.

1929 03 16

A member of the Cambridge Watch Committee was seen chalking the number on the front of his motor car in Market Street. His front number plate had recently been repainted and, forgetting it was not in its usual place, he went for a 40-mile trip. Next day he was stopped by an observant policeman who was adamant that he could not go on. "What shall I do", asked the motorist. "Go into Heffer's and get a pennyworth of chalk" said the policeman, which suggestion was at once acted upon.

1929 04 04

'Talkies for Cambridge' film in October – Central Cinema manager; new super-cinema on Market Hill next year – CDN 4.4.29

1929 07

Discuss Guildhall enlargement, consider alternative site [2.19]

1929 10 05

The imposition of a one-way traffic in Petty Cury is not news, but a good many people are under the impression that they can ride either way after eight o'clock at night. This is not so. The actual regulation, which was adopted in October 1924, says that Market Street and Petty Cury will be one-way streets only. Obviously there would be great dangers in adopting a resolution for the day-time and changing it at night, especially in such a main thoroughfare. For although business vans may be off the road there is often plenty of other traffic on the occasion of concerts at the Guildhall or dinners at the Lion Hotel.

1929 10 19

With the passing of Mrs Eliza Jane Mason of the Livingstone Hotel, Petty Cury, Cambridge has lost a prominent member of the restaurant business. She commenced business with a university lodging house on Market Hill which became known as 'Masons' and was converted into a restaurant. It was largely used by cadets and catered for the officers stationed here during the Great War. Almost the first Belgian wounded soldiers were billeted there and she acted as a sort of nursing mother to them. Her next move was to Sadd's before she bought the Livingstone Hotel which was then only a coffee house. It is now one of the best commercial hotels in Cambridge. She also built the Rendezvous, Magrath Avenue as a skating rink in 1909.

1929 11 06

Nearly thirty arrests were made during a Guy Fawkes 'Rag' on Cambridge Market Hill. Early in the evening an attempt was made to light a bonfire in Petty Cury and there was a considerable blaze in front of Falcon Yard before the police noticed it and it was extinguished. In Rose Crescent an effigy was soaked with petrol, stuffed with fireworks and deposited near the Market Hill end. This was quickly extinguished and the effigy confiscated, but the petrol continued to burn for a long time afterwards. A new feature of the scimmages was the use of police whistles by undergraduates which added to the confusion.

1930

1930

New Electricity Company offices & showrooms opened 4 Market hill [Cam p109]

1930 02 05

The novel sight of people being lowered from an upper window of Messrs Macintosh's establishment in Market Street Cambridge by means of a new automatic fire escape has attracted considerable attention. The escape consists of a small metal box containing geared mechanism through which runs a steel cable with a safety belt fixed at each end. It can be fixed to the wall inside the window. The belt is placed round the body, under the arms and the person is lowered to the ground automatically at the rate of two feet per second. Most of the colleges have been equipped with it. Anybody desirous of testing the escape can do so and already a number of people, including one of the CDN photographers have done so. 30 02 05

1930 02 25

Sir – we Cambridge market traders notice that Councillor Longley wants to move our stalls into the Corn Exchange but we challenge him to produce a transferred market that has been a success. He wants to replace the stalls with car parking spaces. Cannot he see the utter foolishness of congesting the very centre of a town with cars. Those on Market Hill consist of business townsmen, clerics and travellers who sit in their expensive car, eat bread and cheese, beg an onion to go with it but do little business. The Market Hill and Peas Hill are open-air markets. An arcade was tried years ago. The building stands today, a sorry sight, in St Andrew's Hill. The stallholders all failed – W.J. Sambridge. 30 02 25

1930 03

Cambridge Chronicle leaves 9 Market Hill after 168 years [4.17]

1930 03 12

A crowd of nearly 3,000 massed in front of the loud speaker which Pye Radio had installed in the main window of the Cambridge Guildhall. Business in the market was suspended and the lanes between the stalls were solid with people. In the shops and offices there was a general cessation of work; counters and desks were forsaken and faces appeared at every window. There was a cheer when the Cambridge boat crew drew level and overtook Oxford. Workers hurrying home eagerly bought copies of the special edition of the CDN and pictures are being shown at the Central and Tivoli cinema this evening. 30 03 12

1930 05 28

The bookshops of Cambridge are a special feature of the town; no visitor can possibly miss David's stall on the Market Place where the book-lover may pick up a bargain. He came to Cambridge in 1896 and started his career at this stall; in 1906 he took a shop in St Edward's Passage, which is full of interesting old books and though often locked can be viewed at leisure in the window. In such esteem is he held that a luncheon was held in the Hall of Trinity College and a lithograph cartoon by Mr William Nicholson presented to him. 30 05 28a & b

1930 09 04

A Cambridge women told the court she had locked the door of her home at no.5 Guildhall Place but left the front window unfastened to allow her son to get in during the night. She was awakened by her estranged common-law husband who had got in and was flourishing a revolver. He said it was a dummy revolver loaded with blank cartridges and explained they had lived together for 14 years until she took up with a new man. 30 09 04a

1930 11 06

Cambridge police had cold feet with waiting for something to turn up in a temperature several degrees under freezing point. But the dreaded 'Fifth', that traditional battle between University and police failed to explode in the time-honoured fashion. There was a constant bombardment on the outskirts of town and some spasmodic firework throwing on the market where smoke screens were used to some effect. Using the cloud as cover two lamps were extinguished under the very nose of a sergeant. There were a few arrests but no helmets were knocked off. 30 11 06b

1930 12 27

The heavy rain did not deter a large number of members of the Cambridgeshire Hunt from assembling on Cambridge Market Hill for this traditionally English spectacle. The scene was one worth a soaking to witness. Figures in the traditional red and black mingled with macintoshed horsemen, their steaming mounts were restless, the hounds silent and around was a rain-drenched crowd of about 1,000 people. They took a great deal of interest in a small terrier who looked out from the mouth of a haversack slung across a red-coated huntsman's back. 30 12 27a-b

1931 08 28

The new Victoria Cinema on Market Hill, Cambridge opens today. The auditorium is an example of complete harmony between the architect and the decorative painter. No architectural enrichment is applied to the walls, which remain for the most part in darkness, but when the space is filled with light a gorgeous flow of rich colours rises like waves from the back of the house to reach a climax in the rich proscenium curtain of crimson and gold. 31 08 28h

1931 09 04

Cambridge's new Victoria Cinema possesses a theatre organ of the most modern type, a three manual Christie built by Messrs William Hill and Norman and Beard who have been responsible for many of the finest cinema organs in the world. It is placed on one side of the proscenium in two specially constructed chambers which house 2,000 wooden and metal pipes each of which has been 'voiced' by

an expert. In the centre of the orchestra pit, placed on an electric lift, is the beautifully decorated console from which the entire organ is controlled. 31 09 04c

1931 10 23

Cambridge University Drag Hunt first meet on Market Hill – photo – 31 10 23e

1931 11 13

The Poppy Day collection in Cambridge has again smashed all records with undergraduate collectors struggling with money still coming in. Nearly two tons of coppers have passed through their hands. Early in the day the stock of poppies was exhausted and a fresh supply had to be brought in by train. Market Hill was the scene of half-a-dozen well organised ‘rags’ and at Silver Street the Demon Diver jumped in flames into the river and the collectors drew in good sums for his ‘widow’ and ‘children’.

31 11 13 i & j

1932 02 22

New Cambridge Industry (employing only local men). Same day dry-cleaning service by the new British wonder machine which cleans and actually strengthens fabrics leaving no smell. Special opening offer: suit, costume, coat or dress, dry cleaned, hand pressed, collected and delivered for three shillings. The Forum Cleaners and Dyers, Market Hill, Cambridge (Advert). 32 02 22

1932 02 25

Apart from the large hall and council chamber the Cambridge Guildhall is worn out and absolutely unsuitable. The accommodation in every department was deplorable – dark, dismal, horrid, unlit and unhealthy. On Castle Hill there was a fine new building being erected for the County Council who were planning to spend £8,000 on furnishing alone. Never since the war had prices in the building trade been lower; this was the right moment to consider rebuilding, councillors were told. 32 02 25 & 25a

1932 06 04

A new Cambridge Guildhall should be built on the corner of East Road and Parkside where the site is three times as large, meeting the requirements of the Corporation for many years. The existing Guildhall on Market Hill should be replaced with shops on the ground floor and offices and flats above, councillors have recommended. 32 06 04a, 06a, 06aa New Guildhall debate – 32 06 09a, 32 06 20 & a, 32 06 21

1932 07 15

Cambridge councillors say the municipal buildings should remain on the Guildhall site and not move to Parkside as had been proposed. It should be a worthy building, not surrounded by shops. With four floors they could provide 70 per cent more accommodation for officials but five would add to the dignity of the building and leave some surplus space that could be let and provide a source of income. But it must not overwhelm the market place. 32 07 15 c & d

1932 08 19

John Austin Fabb started in business as a printer, moving to Guildhall Street in 1881 and Corn Exchange Street in 1920. He printed the Cambridge Review from its inception in 1879 and conceived the idea of a list of Resident Members of the University in 1890. During the war he compiled seven editions of the list of Cambridge University men on active service. He was a prominent Freemason and founded the York Street Sick Club. 32 08 19e

1932 10 14

Cambridge market hill presented an animated appearance when the University Drag Hounds held a meeting. Thirty horsemen gathered to be welcomed by the Mayor and a silver stirrup cup was handed round to all who could persuade their mounts to remain still for 30 seconds. They then moved off followed by all but one of the hounds which soon received ‘instructions’ from the crowd of 200 spectators and joined his comrades. 32 10 14a

1932 12 09

A Cambridge man told the bankruptcy court he had started as a second-hand bookseller from a stall on Market Hill. Then he took a shop at 17 Peas Hill selling antiquarian books. But a slump in trade 18 months ago meant Americans were not buying books so he had to borrow from moneylenders. 32 12 09a & b

1933 01 30

Guildhall 'by instalments' plan – 33 01 30e

1933 02 02

Guildhall development on Peas Hills front – 33 02 02c & d

1933 02 04

Guildhall rebuilding cartoon – 33 02 04e

1933 03 09

Gt St Mary's bells a nuisance – 33 03 09

1933 04 14

Guildhall plans – 33 04 14a

1933 04 20

Cambridge councillors considered schemes for the rebuilding of the Guildhall. One would alter the whole site, the other would set back the front but the building on Guildhall Street would remain untouched and would revert to being a court. But some councillors thought the Parkside scheme was still the best and would be far cheaper. 33 04 20c & d

1933 06 12

Saturday was one of the quietest bump supper nights on record. A few blazered undergraduates wearing dress shirts roamed the streets and occasionally a cheer could be heard. Then there was a squad of those who went through various drill movements, using the pavement as a parade ground. But they were remarkably steady, and mild, possibly because the bump-supper beer was likewise! A constable remarked, "Sid Moon (the News cartoonist) should draw a cartoon of an empty Market Hill with a yawning policeman, because that all there's doing tonight". 33 06 12a

1933 06 26

Guildhall scheme approved – 33 06 26 & a

1933 07 28

The Central Hall in Market Passage may become a cinema where cultural films would be shown during the University term. It would be run by Openshaw Higgins, formerly manager of The Tivoli cinema. Mr Mullett, the architect said the amount of film in the proposed projection box would not generate sufficient heat in event of a fire to buckle the iron armour of which it would be constructed. 33 07 28

1933 08 11

The veranda or shelter over the main entrance of the Guildhall was disgustingly dirty and unsafe and should be removed, the Surveyor reported. It had been built in 1878 and the public should get used to the Guildhall without it because it would not be incorporated in the new building. Others said it was a useful shelter and should be maintained at all costs: the Preservation Society would be shocked if they allowed that ancient piece of architecture to be scrapped. 33 08 11

1933 09 19

Cambridge Guildhall dated back to about 1782 and there had been various extensions. In 1928 the Corporation bought shops in Peas Hill to allow for rebuilding. The possibility of providing shops on the ground floor had been considered but this would not allow sufficient offices for the extra staff needed to cope with their increased duties, an Inquiry was told 33 09 19

1933 10 14

Cambridge's eighth cinema, the Cosmopolitan, otherwise the Central Hall in Market Passage, will provide a regular home for cultural films. Five years ago a Film Guild was started to show a more intelligent class of film, then Mr Openshaw Higgins tried putting them into the ordinary programme before deciding on a new small cinema. It will give three performances each day during Term. 33 10 14

1933 11 27

Joel Smart was the son of a Gloucestershire cloth manufacturer. Coming to Cambridge shortly after the battle of Waterloo he commenced business at 59 Bridge Street in 1826, removing in 1840 to Petty Cury and in 1853 to 11 Market Street. Here he purchased the clothing business of Watson Taylor who had been trading from early in the century. He took his son, Charles, into partnership, in whose family the business still remains. Such is the history of one of the oldest firms in Cambridge where customers will find all the latest materials and the most fashionable styles at keen prices. 33 11 27

1934 02 15

A blindfolded motorist drove through Cambridge at the height of the rush hour as people made their way home to lunch. Professor Popjie's claims that he has 'second sight' enabling him to sense anything in the way was tested when a pedal-propelled invalid chair caused him to slow somewhat abruptly. He threaded his way through traffic down Petty Cury, round the Market and back to the New Theatre where he is appearing with his electrical figure 'Radiana'. 34 02 15

1934 04 27

A large number of University and college servants gathered at the Assembly Rooms in Market Passage for the opening of their new Club by the Vice-Chancellor. The opportunity for members to meet in social intercourse was half the value of a Cambridge education. It would provide properly organised amusements for all servants during winter months, to fit in with their rather unusual hours of leisure. 34 04 27

1934 08 01

Gonville and Caius College's scheme for the complete rebuilding of the block of shops and houses on the north side of Cambridge Market Hill has been finally approved. At present the site from Rose Crescent to St Mary's Court is occupied by a group of houses, mostly of the 18th century. Their disappearance will be regretted, even by those who knew how dilapidated they had become behind their neat Georgian facades. But the whole effect of the completed block should stifle these regrets. The shops will be set back seven feet with upper rooms carried on slender pillars. 34 08 01

1934 08 01

After a history of 100 years it is hardly surprising that there is a thorough tobacco atmosphere about the shop of Messrs Bacon Bros which has stood on Market Hill since 1805 and the news that it is to be pulled down with cause regret to many. A number of ledgers over 100 years old, containing fascinating information about the smokers have come to light including the original accounts sent to C.S. Calverley whose 'Ode to Tobacco' appears on the outer wall of the shop. A new shop will be built on almost the same spot. 34 08 01

1934 09 15

Extensive repairs are being carried out to the roof of Great St Mary's church. Once again the cause is the death-watch beetle whose activities in the wooden beams have wrought tremendous havoc. The area around the chancel is in 'splints' with steel scaffolding but services are being held as usual. The

church has only recently been cleaned and the organ renovated. One can only hope the ravages have been checked before they could cover the whole of the roof. 34 09 15 [6.13]

1934 09 22

Statues on Market Hill conduit named – 34 09 22

1934 09 27

Hot Bargains at the great re-building sale at the Peas Hill Cash Drapery Stores. Household linens, blankets, dress and underwear fabrics at knock-out prices including Wigan sheeting, Jaspe bedspreads, Gent's fancy socks, Ladies artificial silk knickers (slightly fleeced) and interlock woven pyjamas. From college hire, 50 pairs of single bed sheets, once used and laundered, from 3/6 each. Six dozen heavy white Turkish Towels (one used and laundered) nine-pence three-farthings each. – Advertisement. 34 09 27

1934 11 03

The Cambridge Social Club, all that survived of the old Liberal Club in Downing Street, has been wound up. It moved to Market Passage and for the last five years old party labels have gone by the board. Each year it has been difficult making ends meet but happily the club finished up free from debt. The Ranjitsinhji Billiards Bowl has been offered to the Central Conservative Club and the portrait of its donor to the Hobbs' Pavilion. 34 11 03a

1934 11 06

Cambridge saw one of the most riotous celebrations of the 'Fifth' for many years. In the course of demonstrations around Market Hill nearly 40 arrests were made, many of the police lost their helmets, several more had their tunics ripped right down the back and not a few sustained split knuckles and bruises. When supplies of fireworks began to run low parties of undergraduates attempted to put out every light but carried their efforts too far and smashed the glass of two shop windows and the traffic signal at the top of Petty Cury. There were 35 defendants including seven for assaults on the police, three for resisting the police a number for obstructing the police. Other summonses were for extinguishing street lamps and throwing fireworks. A Trinity undergraduate was fined for 'tipping' a policeman's helmet. Several times during the hearing there were outbursts of laughter. 34 11 06, a & b

1934 12 07

Barratt shoes have just opened their 126th branch at 6 Market Street Cambridge. When you consider that ten years ago they had fewer than 20 you must allow that they'd progressed. Some of the lines are stocked in no fewer than fifty alternative fittings. They are made in Barratt's own factory and sold only through their branches. From start to finish every detail is under their control and there are no middleman's profits – advert. 34 12 07

1934 12 17

Merchants at Cambridge Corn Exchange traditionally end the year by throwing about samples of their wares. The signal for the commencement of the battle was the explosion of a cracker near the door. The 'firer' was immediately bombarded and soon covered with flour, wheat and artificial manure. Crackers banged merrily, bags burst with marked effect and very soon all the dignified corn-merchants were life-like imitations of snowmen. Even the rather grim-looking statue of Jonas Webb looked comical with the flour-bag headgear that was placed on it. After 30 minutes the ammunition ran out and combat ceased, though the debris-covered floor was witness of the fight that had been in progress. 34 12 17a

1935 01 02

Guildhall – architect's drawing – 35 01 02

1935 03 07

Police guarded the closed gates of the University Arms Hotel while Sir Oswald Mosley was at a dinner organised by the University Fascist Society. Outside a meeting organised by the University Socialist Society was held on Parker's Piece with speeches by John Cornford, Maurice Cornford and Maurice Dobb. Then a torchlight procession by 200 undergraduates shouting anti-Fascist slogans such as 'We want Mosley dead or alive' and singing 'The Internationale' marched to Peas Hill where more speeches were made before a Proctor arrived and they dispersed. 35 03 07c

1935 03 13

A packed public meeting at Cambridge Guildhall voted against plans for a new building and called on the council to remodel the front to a more dignified style of architecture. Cambridge was a treasure house of architectural gems and they had no right to hand down to posterity a freak building, a flat and uninteresting example of early 20th-century abominations. Another motion dealing with the question of shops on the Peas Hill side of the building received scant attention as most of the audience had left before the end. 35 03 13 & a

1935 04 10

Demolition work on Peas Hill for the new Guildhall has led to an architectural discovery of outstanding interest. It has revealed the residence and business premises of a well-to-do Tudor merchant which was subsequently divided up into a detached and two semi-detached houses. The magnificent front was covered up with lath and plaster in the reign of Queen Anne and finished with mock bricks. Dummy eaves were also added. Now each piece has been carefully taken down and numbered for preservation and re-erection. 35 04 10

1935 05 01

The Guildhall Protest Committee criticised plans for a useless portico of a most ornate and incongruous style which could be 'put on cold' in from of the proposed façade of the new Guildhall in two years' time if the town really wanted it. They maintained the main entrance should be on Market Hill. It would allow a terrace which would form a platform for addressing meetings on Market Hill and give a façade of distinction that the people strongly desire. There was also intense feeling regarding the question of shops on the Peas Hill side 35 05 01

1935 05 13

The number employed by the Disabled Persons Workshop has varied from 9 to 10; two are doing piece work in their homes, not being able to attend at the shop. Unfortunately three who are employed are not eligible for the deficiency grants from the Ministry of Labour which has hit the income. It has been a disturbed year owing to the difficulty of finding suitable premises in Cambridge for a shop. The workshops in Gloucester Street are out of the way and they had to leave Peas Hill because of demolitions, meaning there was nowhere to sell their goods. The new premises in Trumpington Street are outside the shopping centre and the rents and rates are a strain 35 05 13

1935 05 18

Cambridge Drawing Society exhibition includes many local views including 'Peas Hill' by Dorothy E. Bradford, 'Pembroke College' by Joyce Shillington Scales and Fenners by Mary Fyson. Fulbourn Mill has provided R.C. Lambeth with a subject. His detailed painting of the interior of the mill and its machinery will interest all with a mechanical turn of mind. Madame Raverat has some beautiful woodcuts including an unusually large cut of St John's Old Bridge printed from three wood blocks. 35 05 18

1935 06 15

The Cosmopolitan Cinema in Market Passage was started two years ago by Mr N. Openshaw Higgins as an experiment. Increasing numbers of people have welcomed the opportunity of seeing cultural films that do not appeal to be masses. Now it is moving to the new theatre being constructed in Peas Hill. There has been discussion as to the most suitable name for the new venture. The Arts Theatre was talked of, but a more likely choice now is the Market Theatre. 35 06 15b

1935 05 16

Councillors argued over proposals for the Guildhall. Some wanted to spend £200,000 on the old building and still have a patchwork quilt, whereas they could have an entirely new one for £150,000. Peas Hill never had been and never would be a business centre and shops there would never be a paying proposition. The dispute had started with an unfortunate illustration of the façade in the 'Sunday Times' but the design was undoubtedly a dignified building of its kind and the average elector would vote for anything, if it were as ugly as sin, if it would only save a bit on the rates.. However Councillor Stubbs said if it had been built on Donkey Common as he'd suggested some years ago the council would not be in the muddle it was today. 35 05 16a & b

1935 07 27

Belisha Beacons have now been installed in Cambridge, whether we like them or not. They are on Market Street corner near Sainsbury's, between Christ's college and St Andrew's church, near the Midland Bank in Petty Cury, the 'Jolly Waterman' on Victoria Avenue and between Christ's Pieces and New Square. It is just as well the undergraduates are not here to see their erection. Perhaps we shall all have become thoroughly accustomed to them where our young friends come up 35 07 27b

1935 09 07

New theatre on Peas Hill takes shape – photo – 35 09 07

1935 09 27

The opening of Bacon Bros' new premises on Market Hill will forge a new link in a unique chain of tradition. Old ledgers record the names of customer who became famous in every walk of life including the Prince of Wales, the future Baron Rothschild and both Alfred and Charles Tennyson. The new interior fittings are made of cedar so that the shop is like a giant cigar box with many relics of bygone days. Verses from the 'Ode to Tobacco' by Charles Stuart Calverley which featured on the wall of the old building in Rose Crescent until its demolition last year are to make their reappearance in the form of a bronze tablet. 35 09 27b & 28a

1935 10 01

Cambridge Justices approved the plans of Associated British Cinemas for a new cinema to be erected in St Andrew's Street. The site had been left derelict after fire burnt down a large part of the Castle Hotel in 1934. The application was opposed by the Theatre Cinema and the Rendezvous. There were nine cinemas in Cambridge with 6,300 seats and it would be impossible for them all to carry on if a super cinema like this were built. The Victoria was built four years ago, the Arts Theatre was completely new and the Rendezvous was having more seats and an organ. But the Cosmopolitan had closed and the Guildhall and Corn Exchange licences were rarely used. 35 10 01 & a

1935 10 17

The foundations of the Small Room of the Guildhall, which also supported the Borough Surveyor's room, are in such bad conditions that they must be demolished earlier than planned. It had been hoped to defer demolition until the Surveyor could move into the new wing of the Guildhall being built on Peas Hill. A ditch had been found under the site. Assurances were sought that the foundations of the rest of the Guildhall, especially the Large Room, were secure because weaknesses were not generally found in one spot but existed in veins all over the area. 35 10 17a

1935 10 18

Sir – Last Saturday afternoon I saw a fellow stuck more than half-way up Market Street with a car. He had been into a nearby shop and carefully turned the petrol off. When he came out he found a string of cars and buses held up. He got flustered at the situation, pressed the starter and nothing happened. I swung it about four times for him, and still nothing happened. Then I helped him push it down the street out of the way, and there found out the trouble. – Albert Baker 35 10 18a

1935 11 11

The Two Minutes' Silence was observed. Life was paralysed and sound was stilled. A crowd of several hundreds gathered on Cambridge Market Hill, waiting. At two minutes to the hour a clock in the vicinity struck and a whistle blew on the Guildhall demolition site and the Silence began. Buses, cars, carts, cycles and pedestrians were perfectly still. When what was actually the first maroon went off at eleven the crowd mistook it for the second and during what should have been the Silence the ordinary bustle recommenced. The second maroon took everyone by surprise with the exception of the few who had realised the mistake and remained still. 35 11 11

1935 11 26

Cambridge Disabled Soldiers' Workshop had been through a difficult period. The largest number of men in the workshop was 12 and at present there were only seven, none of which were complete in their bodies. One had lost his leg in the South African War. The shop in Trumpington Street was not in so good a situation as at Peas Hill and they did not get the streams of passing undergraduates. We should never forget the men who had served, suffered and saved our country through its years of dire peril. 35 11 26

1935 12 17

Electricity is the modern housewife's Father Christmas, bringing her so many labour-saving and home-brightening devices and Messrs Bailey, Grundy and Barrett of St Mary's Passage are specialists. Lamp standards, wireless sets and coffee percolators are a few gift suggestions. Harassed husbands and flurried fiancés will find solutions to all their gift problems at Messrs Eaden Lilley's which is packed full of things dear to the feminine heart such as evening gowns, furs and lingerie. The bargain basement has good quality stuff at reasonable prices. 35 12 17a

1936 01 23

Several thousand packed Cambridge Market Hill where from a special platform draped in purple the new King Edward VII was proclaimed. But proceedings were interrupted by the appearance overhead of an aeroplane and as a result of the noise from the engine the Mayor (Ald Wing) had to pause. Undergraduates crowded outside the Senate House where the University ceremony was held. Many of them had cameras and four or five, determined to get a good view of the ceremony, climbed into the huge bowl which stands on a pedestal in the court. 36 01 23c

1936 02 04

The Cambridge Arts Theatre opened with a gala performance by the Vic-Walls Ballet Company. It is a beautiful piece of work with furnishings in autumn leaf and includes a restaurant and café bar. The cinema and sound apparatus is of the very latest type with facilities for the reproduction of gramophone records designed by Messrs Morley and Duke. The fresh air supply can be warmed or cooled while the main heating by water-fed radiators is instantly adjustable to meet the vagaries of the English climate 36 02 04 & a

1936 03 12

Albany Café in St Mary's Passage – painting – 36 03 12b

1936 03 21

Albany coffee shop St Mary's Passage notes; frontage between St Mary's Passage and St Edward's Passage sold - 36 03 21b

1936 03 28

Under new restrictions Cambridge motorists may not travel from Market Hill towards Trinity Street or into Bene't Street from King's Parade. You may not drive into Sussex Street from Hobson Street or into Corn Exchange Street from Downing Street, nor turn at Burton's Corner, Petty Cury to go to the Victoria Cinema or from Wheeler Street into Peas Hill to get to the Arts Theatre. But cyclists may walk with their bicycles either way as they do at present in Petty Cury and Market Street. Restaurants will have to speed up their service if they wish to cater for those who leave their cars outside, for only

a quarter of an hour is permitted. Travellers who do not want to get indigestion had better make use of a parking space! 36 03 28b

1936 09 03

When John Brown took charge of Freeman, Hardy & Willis shop on Market Hill in 1897 boots were cheap, and needed to be: "I can remember country women coming in with a dozen children and saying their husbands only earned twelve shillings a week". When he started brown boots were so scarce that people stopped and gazed at someone who sported a pair in Peterborough. Most had hobnails in the sole – even those for infants - and women wore elastic-sided boots – it didn't matter what they wore, because you never saw their feet. The shop was enlarged into premises next door in 1905 36 09 03a

1936 10 13

The Central Library Lending Department is housed in the oldest and most unhygienic part of the building in Wheeler Street. The room is badly provided with natural lighting and artificial light has to be used. When 'open access' was installed in 1921 the annual circulation was 141,968 books and now it is over 309,000. It should move into the present domed Reading Room. Most of the bookcases have been in use since 1862 and would be unsightly; they should be replaced by steel shelving. 36 10 13c

1936 11 20

Gustave David, known as 'David' to generations of undergraduates has died hours after returning by the midnight train having attended a London auction. He came to Cambridge forty years ago, opening his now-famous stall on Market Hill. Later he opened a shop in Green Street before moving to St Edward's Passage. He was the first man in Cambridge to sell rare and old books at low prices. So appreciative were Universitymen of his services that in 1925 a number of distinguished members entertained him to lunch at Trinity in recognition of the 'conspicuous services he has rendered the cause of humane letters'. 36 11 20 a & b

1936 12 09

The Cambridge Milk Bar opened on Market Hill where all the shakes and soups can be purchased at the standard price of four pence. You have only to visit it once to become an addict. The first milk bar opened in Fleet Street two years ago and they have spread rapidly attracting business men, workmen and shoppers. In cold weather what could be more sustaining than a bowl of soup made with milk while in summer a cold milk shake flavoured with fresh fruit syrups, made 'crisp' with cream and whipped is a creamy delight 36 12 09b

1936 12 30

Peas Hill windows smashed – including Sennitt – 36 12 30 & a

1937 02 18

Guildhall and Market Hill site – history by Mrs Keynes – 37 02 18

1937 05 12

Cambridge celebrated the coronation of King George V with a decorated vehicle display on Midsummer Common. The entries hardly reached the standard of the Jubilee procession and the crowds did not seem to be quite so thick, but the right spirit was present. Modern decorations in the shape of coloured electric bulbs and weatherproof materials were utilised to the full with triple garlands spanning Market Hill and central streets. The war memorial and the colleges were bathed with floodlighting 37 05 12b

1937 07 16

An 18-foot long scale model of H.M.S. Repulse was exhibited on Cambridge Market Square to stimulate recruiting and advertise Navy Week. It is fitted with electric search-lights and Morse lamps and illuminated by powerful lamps from the Vauxhall lorry that tows it. Extensive alterations have been made to the upper deck of the ship since the model was first made and these have been effected

on the model which was originally constructed at Portsmouth docks for instructional purposes.37 07 16a

1937 07 17

Rainwater heads on Three Tuns, Central Hotel, Peas Hill – 37 07 17b

1937 08 20

Sir – way back in the 1890s I booked a seat with the Sawston carrier. The morning broke with a grey sky. I remember his suspicious look until I paid him the ninepence fare and threepence extra providing there was no ‘scorching’. I also recollect his need of a shave. We made Stapleford in the first three hours, on to Shelford and rounded the Stone Bridge, Trumpington about noon, to schedule. But then the offside-wheel came off. I alighted at Market Hill, walked down Petty Cury and boarded a horse tram. Then from the delightful rhythm and sway of that luxuriously-upholstered vehicle I drank in the scenery of the skyscraper buildings in Regent Street before returning home – ‘Blisters’ 37 08 20

1938 01 07

The demolition of parts of the old Guildhall has meant that several annual functions have lost their normal home. But a Mayoral reception elsewhere than in the Guildhall must surely be unique in Cambridge history. It is symbolic of the happy relations existing between the Town and the University that the Old Schools should have been placed at the disposal of the councillors. Cars containing guests pulled up on King’s Parade and a lengthy walk under illuminated awnings led to the Dome Room. The Council Room, East Room, Syndicate Room and Regent House were in use but only the dais where the orchestra played for dancing was decorated 38 01 07

1938 01 14

The old Shire Hall on Cambridge Market Hill, was erected in 1747. At that a time the 14th-century Guildhall which stood on the south of Butter Row was under repair. This was pulled down in 1782 to be replaced by the Guildhall built by James Essex. Now demolition has revealed a fragment of the medieval Guildhall. Two pieces of ancient oak carved with leaves are thought to date from 1386. They will be replaced in the new building 38 01 14b

1938 03 22

Exhibition of furniture at Central Hall, Market Passage – 38 03 22

1938 03 22

Market Hill fountain water not fit for human consumption – 38 03 22e

1938 03 28

Thomas Gregg, a familiar face on the Market Hill, has retired after 30 years as a colporteur. He came to Cambridge in 1908 and has sold Bibles, Testaments and texts on his market stall near the fountain every Saturday since. It was often used as a meeting place for preachers and people from the villages. He also works as a lay preacher and travels round on his bicycle. “I have cycled to chapels as far away as Ely and once preached five sermons at Wilburton on one Sunday”, he said 38 03 28a

1938 06 24

The new Cambridge Guildhall basement could be regarded as splinter-proof and it would not be difficult to render it gas-resisting, the Air Raid Precautions Committee heard. If not done they could be criticised for allowing a public building without adequate protection and could not ask other stores or factories to comply with such regulations. But it would need to have 25 feet of concrete, with earth on top, to make it bomb-proof. It was absolutely and entirely impossible. 38 06 24a & b

1938 10 05

Martin’s bank opens new branch on Market Hill – 38 10 05

1938 10 07

William Coad of Cavendish Avenue has come up with an answer to the need for underground A.R.P. shelters. His scheme is to construct a sub-way car park underneath Cambridge Market Square with inlet and outlet ramps, which, in the event of an emergency, could be converted into an effective shelter accommodating several thousand people. A nominal car-parking fee would eventually pay for the initial outlay and alleviate the need for suitable garaging for business men coming into the town. 38 10 07

1938 10 21

A.R. Nichols and Son, butchers on the corner of Petty Cury and Guildhall Street notify customers that owing to building reconstruction in Petty Cury they are temporarily carrying on their business at their East Road shop and also at a stall on Market Hill 38 10 21

1938 10 29

Fireworks, jeers, cheers and shouts punctuated a meeting organised by the University Socialist Club addressed by Major Atlee, the Leader of the Opposition, in the Corn Exchange. The noise died down when he began to speak but there were frequent interruptions caused by exploding fireworks. All police leave was cancelled because of the meeting and a visit by Sir Oswald Mosley to the C.U. Fascist Association dinner in the Dorothy Café. But rowdiness was principally of the vocal kind. 38 10 29a

1938 11 11

Undergraduates invaded the streets, skilfully extracting all the spare coppers with various ingenious stunts. In white sweaters and kilts of many clans the University Pipe Band paraded to Market Square for a display of Highland dancing, then toured public houses. The 'Peace Group' were perched on a cart disguised as a camouflaged tank decorated with "Atlee's pants" – which appeared to be pale pink in colour. Standing on the tank were two dictatorial-looking figures in uniform. Amongst the individual performers was a man on a pair of stilts made from skulls while barrel-organ players were dressed as ghosts 38 11 11

1939 01 09

A mass meeting of farmers held in Cambridge Corn Exchange expressed alarm at the catastrophic fall in the price of certain agricultural produce and called for guaranteed prices. In 1938 they'd increased their production of barley by 60,000 acres but received the same amount as the previous year. The consumer demands cheap food, but this should not be at the expense of the farm worker; acres were going out of cultivation and farmers were getting harder and harder up. The farmer was traditionally Conservative and in the old days the party was drawn largely from the land. But now it was made up of industrialists and financiers. 39 01 09 & a

1939 05 20

Cambridge Corn Exchange was packed with 2,500 undergraduates when Winston Churchill made a striking speech on conscription which was relayed to the Lion Hotel. There was some violence when those unable to get in attempted to force an entrance; during the melee a policeman lost his helmet. Several hundred undergraduates remained outside until a proctor ordered them to disburse. Inside a motion accepting conscription was carried by ten to one 39 05 20 & a

1939 07 22

The new Cambridge Guildhall will be opened on October 9th by the Earl of Derby. The grand staircase is much more imposing than the old one, the new small room, complete with carpet, will be very convenient and the large hall improved though it is not nearly large enough for conferences, political mass meetings or big musical enterprises. The new Council chamber also seems on the small side and the aldermanic bench has been considerably shortened. 39 07 22b

1939 07 28

Cambridge Town council held its last meeting at Shire Hall while the Guildhall was reconstructed. The Library committee asked to use the Small Room as temporary reading room during the re-

arrangement of the Central Library. But it had a very expensive carpet that might get spoilt. The library might use the Corn Exchange annexe if the cycles were moved. Ald Briggs said that was not a proper alternative: "The fact is that we have had made a beautiful Guildhall, but must not use it". The carpet could be taken up. But the Guildhall might not be finished by that time and it would be unfortunate if people were allowed in the Small Room before the rest were completed. The request was denied – 39 07 28b & c

1939 08 31

Lloyd's Bank practiced evacuating their staff to air raid shelters in the two strong rooms adjoining the main hall of the bank. Those in Lloyds Bank Chambers used a specially constructed cat-walk over the roof to the fire escape window. The two strong rooms are situated one below the other and a trapdoor will supply a means of escape should one of the entrances become blocked. In the event of a raid customers can accompany the staff or seek the nearest public shelter in wine vaults under Peas Hill 39 08 31

1939 09 09

Peas Hill air raid shelter opens; large cavity under road shelters 400 people in converted wine cellars – photo – 39 09 09, 09a

1939 10 04

Cambridge business is experiencing a war boom with the influx of thousands of evacuees and fewer facilities for getting to London to shop. A feeling of optimism prevails among tradespeople who point out that although prices will rise in the near future it will not be due to profiteering on their part. The Paris House reports a flourishing sale in fur coats and higher priced merchandise while Mr Hensher of Peas Hill says his shop has been crowded by purchasers of black-out materials, blankets and bedding. Millers say gramophones and wirelesses are selling well and they expect a rush on pianos. 39 10 04a

1939 10 06

Suggestions for brightening the black-out at Cambridge. Heffer's have a selection of indoor games such as Autobridge, dominoes and jig-saw puzzles. Coad's stock khaki wools and other artistic shades for personal shoppers while Johnson's have a range of novels as well as black-out paper. Gray of Sidney Street can supply miniature billiard tables but those who prefer the real thing should visit the Guildhall Street Billiards Saloon which is open from early morning till late at night. 39 10 06b

1939 10 12

Guildhall first council meeting – 39 10 12a & 12b [and see Memories 20th Oct 2014]

1939 11 10

The first part of the new scheme for improving the Central library is complete. In the new lending department book shelves radiate from a central staff inclosure, providing more room and improved natural lighting. The old lending library will become the newspaper reading room while the old reference room will be used for magazines. An innovation is the transfer of the reference room upstairs to the old Education offices, entrance to which is gained through Peas Hill. Refugees, evacuees and any person resident in Cambridge are eligible as borrowers. 39 11 10

1939 12 08

A News reporter inspected all types of shelter and was impressed with the comparative comfort of the interiors. The person who looks for armchairs will be disappointed, but in some of the larger basements there is plenty of space to walk about and in some there is even central heating. Most shelters have been constructed to withstand any likely fall of masonry and air locks to keep out gas have been installed. They have been arranged within a short distance of areas such as the centre of town where there are usually considerable congregations of people. They are primarily intended for the protection of people caught in the streets in an emergency. None are now ready with the cellars under Peas Hill holding 400 people 39 12 08b

1940

1940 02 22

Robert Henshaw, furnishing fabrics, Peas Hill/St Edward's Passage: illustrated advert – 40 02 22a

1940 03 14

'Modern Hairdressing' – new ladies hair saloon and Stanwell Shoe Company, St Mary's Passage – 40 03 14a

1940 04 24

A.J. Pointer cinema pioneer; took over Victoria Assembly Room in Market Hill which he ran as a roller skating rink, converting it into Cambridge's first cinema in 1910, had previously used Alexandra Hall for occasional picture shows. In 1916 he took over the Kinema, previously a variety theatre which is now the oldest cinema in Cambridge. Victoria closed 15 years ago and when new Vic re-opened under a company he handed over control to his son, Eric. Personally directed Kinema till last year when son Frank took over – 41 04 24a; had been occasional films at Midsummer Fair but Pointer responsible for first regular showings at Alexandra Hall, now YMCA and comfortable seating was not one of the main attractions. Performances were shorter but comprised nine or 10 items such as five 'comics', one 'coloured trick', one news film of racing and two dramas. Early films were crude affairs and constant flickering made it seem as if picture taken in heavy downpour of rain – 41 04 26a. Early films – old Victoria cinema was called Electric Theatre and run by a Mr Jordain – 41 05 03a

1940 06 24

Great salvage drive – refuse collector on Market Hill – 40 06 24a

1940 08 13

Mr Pointer owned Victoria Cinema and in 1929 Pointer & Co formed for purpose of building and running a modern cinema; attached was Still and Sugarloaf. In 1935 Cambridge Holdings Ltd was formed to acquire cinemas in Cambridge who wanted to acquire Victoria Cinema and restaurant. They paid Pointer & co for £30,500 – court case – 40 08 13a, 40 08 14b, 40 08 16

1940 09 06

Death of Mr. W. H. Francis. A familiar figure in Cambridge, of which he was Mayor before the Great War, Mr. Walter H. Francis, passed away on Thursday at the age of 82. His home was at 3 Grange Road and he had been in failing health for some time. Since the death of his brother (Mr. Musgrave Francis) Mr. Francis had been senior partner in the Francis and Co., solicitors of Peas Hill 1940 11 01 Peas Hill air raid shelter interior, showing old wine bottles – photo – 40 11 01b

1940 11 26

Nazi that was Messerschmitt-en – Corn Exchange war weapons exhibition – 40 11 26b, c

1941 04 26

A.J. Pointer cinema pioneer; took over Victoria Assembly Room in Market Hill which he ran as a roller skating rink, converting it into Cambridge's first cinema in 1910, had previously used Alexandra Hall for occasional picture shows. In 1916 he took over the Kinema, previously a variety theatre which is now the oldest cinema in Cambridge. Victoria closed 15 years ago and when new Vic re-opened under a company he handed over control to his son, Eric. Personally directed Kinema till last year when son Frank took over – 41 04 24a; had been occasional films at Midsummer Fair but Pointer responsible for first regular showings at Alexandra Hall, now YMCA and comfortable seating was not one of the main attractions. Performances were shorter but comprised nine or 10 items such as five 'comics', one 'coloured trick', one news film of racing and two dramas. Early films were crude affairs and constant flickering made it seem as if picture taken in heavy downpour of rain – 41 04 26a. Early films – old Victoria cinema was called Electric Theatre and run by a Mr Jordain – 41 05 03a

1941 05 03

Roller skating craze at height in 1910 with University and Town Rink in Magrath Avenue, Victoria Assembly Rooms, skating rink on Market Hill and in Pythagoras Gardens where was open-air skating and shooting range – 41 05 03b

1941 08 15

James Henry Kidd of Kidd & Baker dies aged 72; first worked for Faulkner-White in St Andrew's Street, then Scott & Wilkinson. Opened his own business in St Mary's studios 36 years ago and was joined by Miss Baker who had worked with him at Scott & Wilkinson. Business thrived, good mixed trade with University and town. War produced difficulties in obtaining materials and the studio was forced to close – 41 08 15a

1942 06 15

United Nations day in Cambridge – march down Market Street – 42 06 15c

1942 07 04

David's bookstall featured in Canadian radio broadcast, started 1886 now one of oldest on market – 42 07 04

1942 08 20

Market Hill fountain covered in scaffolding – photo – 42 08 14c; displays salvage drive figures – 42 08 20a

1943 06 29

Queue for horse meat for pets in Wheeler Street – photo – 43 06 29

1943 08 28

J. Hopkins of Stretham retires from Cambridge market after 60 years selling poultry, eggs and butter – 43 08 28 & a

1943 11 01

Cambridge Corn Exchange venue for Barn Dance staged by American Red Cross for US forces' celebration of traditional American custom of Hallowe'en ... at one end a Guy Fawkes surrounded by straw ... dances consisted slow foxtrots and quicksteps to the famous American Flying Eagles band. Were crates of apples and pears from which the many dancers, numbering about 1,800 were at liberty to help themselves. Refreshments served free of charge by an American clubmobile – a canteen on wheelers – about 3,000 American doughnuts, 25 gallons of coffee and 30 gallons of cider, beside orange and lemonade. Pumpkins cut into faces grotesquely illuminated by candles ... 43 11 01

1943 12 28

Stanley Rampling, dies; was surgical appliance maker, Market Street – 43 12 28a

1944 04 03

Cambridge leave hostel for serving women opened Rose Crescent – 42 02 06aYWCA Hostel in Lensfield Road opened – two roomy houses standing side by side; the old hostel in Rose Crescent outgrown; many hundreds had stayed in earlier years of the war. Can now accommodate 65 service women; 1,400, including Land Army have stayed. 44 04 03

1944 05 05

Telephone supervisor, Grace Curzon retires after 45 years; was one of two telephone operators in Trunk Exchange of Old Post Office. The local telephone exchange was on Market Hill under control of the National Telephone Company. In 1913 the Post Office took control and a combined trunk and local exchange was installed in old Telephone Exchange premises in Alexandra Street. When

automatic telephone working was introduced in 1925 it moved to new head Post Office in St Andrew's Street – 44 05 05a

1945 04 06

Salvage. The hon. local salvage organiser (Mr. E. W. Bullman) reports that over two tons of waste paper and cardboard was sent from Linton last week, also 3 cwt. of bones. Waste paper and bones are still urgently needed by the Ministry of Supply to aid victory in the war effort, but rubber, tins and scrap metal must not be dumped in the Market Place. All rubbish of this kind must be put out by the householder when the monthly collection of house refuse is made.

1945 04 09

Fire Jarrold's shop, Market Street; hundreds of books destroyed – 45 04 09

1945 05 08

VE celebrations, Market Square, crowd of several thousand, waste paper dump in St Mary's Passage set on fire, cars and stalls damaged, flag on top fountain, climb Guildhall clock – 45 05 08, 1945 05 09, 09a 45 05 10

1945 05 10

Crowds dance Market Hill – photo – 45 05 10

1945 05 14

Thanksgiving service Gt St Mary's church – CDN 1945 05 14

1945 06 29

Music, singing and dancing licences for Theatre Cinema, Regal, Victoria, Tivoli, Central and Playhouse transferred to Max Milder from Eric Lightfoot who leaving the A.B.C. company – CDN 1945 06 29

1945 08 02

Presentation Freedom Borough USAAF – CDN 1945 08 02, a & b Crowds celebrate CDN 1945 08 03

1945 08 16

How Cambridge heard the great victory news, Market Hill scenes at declaration, spontaneous revelry – 45 08 15, a; Victory night o revelry on Parker's Piece – 45 08 16

1946 03 02

Early cinemas – Guildhall and Corn Exchange licenced on Mar 26 1910; that year licences granted to Sturton Town Hall (now Kinema) and old Victoria Assembly Room which known as Electric Cinema. Thurston's Electric Vaudeville at Midsummer Fair. New cinemas – Playhouse, 1913, Rendezvous originally built as roller skating rink licenced 1915 but this lapsed after fire. Present building opened Nov 1932. Sturton Town Hall, first known as Empire and then as Kinema was licensed as cinema in 1910 but used as music hall until 1914 and from then to 1916 as a music hall-cinema. Central opened 1921, rebuilt 1928 it showed first 'talkies' Destroyed by fire 1939 it re-opened in 1940. Tivoli opened 1925, Victoria 1931, Cosmopolitan in Market Passage, (better known as Central Conservative Club) licensed in 1933 and in Sept 1933 the New Theatre turned into cinema and carried on until Jan 1938 presenting film shows and cine-variety with brief breaks for an occasional play. Reopened for the C.A.O.S. production of 'The Mikado' in Nov 1938. Arts Theatre has had cinema licence but films shown rarely. The last and biggest is Regal opened 1937 – 46 03 02b

1946 05 11

Police officer with portable loudspeaker equipment in Market Street for road safety campaign – photo – 46 05 11

1946 09 30

The Honorary Freedom of the Borough was bestowed on the Cambridgeshire Regiment in recognition of its service in the South African War, for its superb professionalism during the fighting in Flanders and for its valiant fight in the Far East. That fight had not ended with the last shots fired in the defence of Singapore - in fact the courage that was now being recognised was the 3½ years of captivity that followed. In prison camps scattered all over the Far East they had suffered every hardship, lack of food, disease, cruelty, indignities and utter isolation. Among many ordeals the building of the railway in the grim jungles of Siam was singled out by the Mayor for especial mention. The full extent of their sufferings was being to be revealed. Padre J.N. Duckworth told the inspiring spirit and morale under the most terrible conditions. In August 1944 he had been in the "valley of the shadow of death", 450 miles long through which they were constructing the Burma-Thailand railway, his audience were horrified to hear of the conditions and of the state of the men suffering ulcers, malaria, beri beri and dysentery. It had been August 13th 1945 when his particular camp had heard on their small Japanese radio of the atom bomb dropped on Hiroshima, four days later it was over - "there was no flag waving or anything like that, just a long sigh of relief". Now there was flag waving - and a particular flag had place of honour from the Guildhall flagpole - the blue flag of the 1st Battalion of the Cambridgeshire Regiment that had somehow been kept hidden from their captives during the long years of captivity. As the procession wended its way down Petty Cury it was the drums that marked their progress. And amongst the drums were some emblazoned with the Regiment's honours won in earlier wars but lost in the fall of Singapore. Amazingly they had been found by a Dullingham girl, Mary Taylor during her work with the Red Cross and shipped back to Cambridge. In October 1946 they led the old men of the First War and prematurely old boys from the Second to the Guildhall to receive the Freedom they had fought to preserve. - 46 09 30 & a-d

1946 10 09

Gt St Mary's curfew bell to be rung again for first time since war; will sound at 9m followed by number of strokes indicating date of month; until 1929 a bell was rung at 5am, this 'The Apprentice's Bell', later 'The Bedmakers' Bell'; was discontinued as not needed now there were alarm clocks - 46 10 09

1947 10 17

The new "temple" of the fifth art was opened by the Mayor last night. The art is that of cinema; the "temple" the former Cosmopolitan in Market Passage, re-decorated and renamed the Arts Cinema. He said "I feel the cinema will prove an added amenity to Cambridge". The success of the cinema would depend to a very great extent on a wise selection of films and efficient management. Sound and projection have been improved since the cinema was the Cosmopolitan though teething troubles prevented both being experienced that their best. The seating - with seats from the Festival Theatre - is now sloped

1947 11 06

Six undergraduates and two RAF men were arrested during the usual Guy Fawkes Night scenes in the centre of Cambridge last night. From 7.30 crowds grew steadily on Market Hill. Fireworks were discharged freely and the din reached its peak between eight and half-past. Members of the University who earlier had been outnumbered by more than ten to one were in force by nine o'clock, several minor scuffles occurred about this time, and the first of several policemen's helmets disappeared. Proctors and their "bulldogs" early kept undergraduates on the move. After that the crowd gradually thinned away, and by 1.15 there were only groups here and there

1947 11 28

Last drops of basic petrol "went into action" on Wednesday to take their owners to the '99 Rowing Club ball, final big function in Cambridge of the shortly-to-end present "basic" era. Both the Corn Exchange and Guildhall - connected by a covered bridge across Wheeler Street which was closed for the occasion - were in use for the ball. Dancing to the delightful music of Maurice Iliffe and his orchestra took place in the Large Room of the Guildhall. In the Corn Exchange, transformed by a marquee, buffet suppers were served. Here restful music was played by the Coryton Trio. Those present numbered round about 600

1948 03 08

Sir - When crossing the Market Hill, Cambridge, one afternoon of this week I was asked the following question by a young lady, whom I thought might have been more profitably employed; "Would you care to sign our petition for the reduction of prices, and the cutting of profits?" I then discovered a stall draped with Communist bills and other literature. I curtly and firmly refused to sign and I thought to myself: "So this is England, England that still stands firm for freedom, and yet at the same time allows the vile doctrine of Communism to be openly, and shamelessly, broadcast amongst the people on its public market place". It would be interesting to know what Mr Hamilton Kerr (prospective Conservative candidate) have to say about it. Yours etc "AJAX"

1948 05 07

The death occurred on Monday of Fred Markham, familiarly known as "Cuthbert". He will be missed by many stallholders in Cambridge Market Place where from early morning till evening he could be seen, either pushing his barrow or at times helping to hold down stalls in squally weather. Farmers, cattle dealers, auctioneers too, will miss him both at the Cattle Market in Cambridge and throughout East Anglia. "A very sociable man and a good mixer" would describe his personality. He was an ex-cavalry man, and had much foreign service to his credit. He was 56

1948 06 01

Today the one-way traffic system designed to relieve congestion in the centre of Cambridge came into operation. In Sidney Street and Bridge Street the traffic will flow in a northerly direction towards Magdalene Street from the town centre, while in St John's Street and Trinity Street it will flow in a southerly direction towards King's Parade. In Green Street traffic will flow in one direction from Gifford Place to Trinity Street - and the remainder of Green Street will be open for two-way traffic. This extension of "one-way" traffic will link up with the system now in operation at St Mary's street, Market Hill (north side) and Market Street

1948 06 01

Sir - the one-way system has certainly created danger spots at the corner of St John's Street, Cambridge. They could be remedied by putting traffic lights there back into operation. The only alternative would be to divert all traffic into Petty Cury. Every user of Petty Cury will have to agree that it is already far too narrow even for the present volume of traffic - pedestrians are crowded into the roadway and bus drivers often have their work cut out to squeeze their buses through at walking pace. Short of some more radical plan (e.g. banning all motor traffic from the streets round Market Hill) I think the one-way system is as good as we shall get - A.E.B. Owen

1948 06 11 c

Sir - I have just had the pleasure of reading your Diamond Jubilee supplement. It took me back in thought half a century when Billy Gates sold ice cream from his gay barrow - a halfpenny for a shallow glass and a penny for a deeper one, with a choice of flavour - strawberry, vanilla or mixed. There were no refinements, neither wafer nor spoon: we used our tongues and Billy dipped the used glass in a pail of water. It was a primitive service. To lick ice cream on Market Hill was, no doubt, very bad form, but it was jolly good taste! - H.R. Royston

1948 07 07

The assurance that the days of sweated labour in the mining industry were over, and that what is now needed are young men to work the highly complicated new machinery in the pits was given by the National Coal Board which is touring the country on a recruitment and training drive. On Tuesday at the Cambridge Market Hill they screened two films from a mobile van, one of them being a progress parade and the other about miners at work in the pits. They are visiting several schools in Cambridge and the surrounding villages

1948 08 25

Every housewife knows what it is like to spend a tiring time round the shops, perhaps queuing at some, and then having to wend her way home, laden with a heavy shopping basket and numerous parcels. Women in particular therefore will be interested to hear about a delivery system which is to be started in Cambridge by means of which the public can have their shopping delivered, instead of having to carry it home themselves. The firm will operate from a stall on the market place. Shoppers will be able to take their shopping to the stall and have them delivered at their home the same morning. The charge will be 6d in the borough and 1s. in the county within a five mile radius. The originators are Delivery Services, Cambridge, who started up in business as "errand boy" to local firms last year

1948 11 06

Cambridge's annual Guy Fawke's battle was waged in the market square and surrounding streets. Five undergraduates were amongst those who were arrested and placed in the Guildhall cells until being bailed. There were three charges of assaulting the police. Though a strong warning had been given by the university authorities there was considerable rowdiness. RAF men from nearby airfields and US service personnel were banned from Cambridge for the night. Ten people were taken to Addenbrooke's hospital having received slight injuries or fainted in the large crowds

1948 11 26

For the first time anywhere in the world, a new series of television was used to promote road safety at Cambridge. Traffic scenes on Market Hill were televised to the Accident Prevention Exhibition in the Corn Exchange. "Closed-circuit" as it is called is the latest development of the Cambridge firm of Pye Ltd. Two cameras were operated, one fixed to the balcony of the Guildhall and the other on top of a van at the corner of Petty Cury. Along this narrow, one-way street, between 8am and 6pm approximately 7,000 bicycles and 2,000 other vehicles pass each weekday. The slow speed of the traffic and its one-way direction helps to keep the accident rate down

1949 01 05

Several Cambridge shops have their January sales in full swing. Messrs W. Eaden Lilley, Market Street, find that the possibility of the ending of clothes rationing is having a psychological effect. "People are inclined to be a bit rash with their coupons and the half-price, half-price coupon goods are going well". Messrs G. Stace, Petty Cury, have cleared some of their Old Look stock and a number of suits have been sold at a quarter of their price - £20 coats at £4.19s.6d. It was pointed out that the "shorter lady" scores, as some of the old length garments look new length on her

1949 01 19

The Cambridge trades fair was officially opened in the Corn Exchange. Among the exhibitors Messrs Alkit show a special January offer of made-to-measure utility suits and suede booties with crepe soles. Messrs Coats are featuring a wide range of children's clothing from baby to teen age. Messrs J. A. Easton Ltd are displaying demonstrations of a "Kara" permanent cold wave hair styling scalp treatments, chiropody and cosmetics. On the stand of Messrs Miller & sons Ltd, is a fine display of reconditioned pianos and the newest models of radio and television, displays being given daily

1949 09 10

Sir - What I would like to see in post-war Cambridge is the removal of the car park on the Market Square and in its place a small restful garden, with the fountain cleaned and kept running with clear water as its centre-piece. A few seats conveniently placed would add to its charm, for here grandpa could peacefully smoke his pipe whilst grandma did the shopping, and maybe a mother could keep one eye on her children left watching the fountain and feeding the pigeons, as she did the rounds of the market stalls - "Garden lover"

1949 11 07

The quietest Guy Fawkes night "rag" long-service Cambridge police officers can remember passed off without even a street lamp being extinguished - another "within living memory" record. A crowd gathered on the Market Square by 7pm and fireworks were thrown. A police car which arrived on the

scene radioed for reinforcements. These shepherded the crowd off the square. After that police posted at the entrances to the square prevented people entering the area. Early in the evening a few rotten eggs were thrown, and a smoke bomb exploded in the Sidney Street area. These incidents, and the intermittent throwing of fireworks, constituted about the only “excitement” of the evening, though there was an occasion when a “bulldog” pursued a man at full speed in front of the Guildhall.

1950

1950 01 13

Cambridge’s chief sanitary inspector says the stalls on Market Square are unnecessary. “We don’t like these open-air stalls at all, and I don’t see that in 1950 we need them at all. I think it is an anachronism”. Questioned about dogs that ‘wet and sniff all over the place’ he said he had spoken to stallholders and asked if they did not realise that people had to eat vegetable which had been fouled by dogs

1950 03 01

Messrs W. Eaden Lilley, Market St, Cambridge this year celebrates their 200th anniversary. Senior member at present, whose period of service numbers just on 60 years, is Mr George Heath, who has worked his way up and is now responsible for the grocery, household goods, painting and hardware department, both wholesale and retail. His long service and keen interest in the firm have earned him a directorship. “I should they are the kindest people you could possibly work for. There is a long family tradition behind them”, he said.

1950 06 03

Film company International Realistic has been in Cambridge filming part of a feature film with many well-known local scenes as backgrounds. The film will probably be called “The scarlet thread”, and is an exciting “cops and robbers” starring Laurence Harvey and Kathleen Byron. Market Hill is included with a dash to Gt St Mary’s Passage and a realistic rugger tackle by the fountain. The exposed film was rushed each day to London for processing and back again next day in time for screening at the Victoria Cinema after the usual performances

1951 04 02

Unfortunately the sight of flies swarming over the fish on a fishmonger’s slab is still a much too common sight in the summer. It always horrifies me to see food exposed to flies and dust from the street and likely to be fingered or breathed on by prospective customers. I am pleased to report that one of the new refrigerated display cabinets for wet fish has been installed by Mr F.O. Sennitt, Peas Hill, Cambridge. I understand it is the first local fish shop to do so. The shop has also installed a machine with the same system of refrigeration for poultry and dry fish, which will be welcomed by all housewives

1951 06 15

A new one-way traffic system around the Cambridge guildhall comes into operation on Monday. The direction of traffic in Wheeler Street will be reversed to complete the circulatory flow around the guildhall into an anti-clockwise direction and traffic around Market Hill in a clockwise flow. Buses will be unaffected by the new order but say instead of hordes of cyclists crossing over in their path all vehicles will turn in the direction the buses approach the guildhall. The scheme has resulted from the necessity to ease traffic around the guildhall in view of the proposed Lion Yard car park development

1951 11 10

A year ago Cambridge was the scene of an exciting street chase – engineered for the purposes of a film. “The Scarlet Thread”. Now it is complete and will be shown at the Victorian Cinema. It has a “cops and robbers” story concerning the theft from a jeweller’s shop in Sidney Street and a chase across Market Hill. This part was filmed from the top of the Victoria Cinema. The film was made by the International Realist Coy and stars Kathleen Byroa, Lawrence Harvey and Sidney Tatler

1951 11 20

Agriculture has suffered a severe loss in the passing of Mr Samuel Owen Webb at his home at Streetley Hall, West Wickham. He was grandson of Jonas Webb to whom a statue was erected in the Corn Exchange. He was the founder and first president of the Cambridgeshire Farmers' Federation. In the 1914-18 war he was appointed chairman of the War Agricultural Committee and again during the second war. A keen showman he helped re-form the Cambs Agricultural Society which became one of the largest shows in the country

1952 02 11

As the King's funeral procession was winding its slow way through London's streets, hundreds of Cambridge people at similar services in the city joined in Britain's mourning for her late Sovereign. City and County combined at Great St Mary's church where a separate University service was held later. About a thousand people filled the church. Most of the men wore black ties. The scarlet robes of City aldermen provided the one touch of colour; even the gilt of the maces was subdued by a draping of black. The service was relayed to an overflow gathering in the Guildhall. A crowd of some 300 people gathered on the Market Place for the two minute's silence. As the maroon exploded men removed their hats and heads were lowered.

1952 02 26

Veterans of the Boer War will meet in London to mark the anniversary of the relief of Ladysmith. It was on that night that the last really big bonfire was started on Cambridge Market Square. Old horse buses, "growlers" filled with tar and straw, market stalls – all went to feed those triumphant flames whose heat cracked every window in the Market Square. The number of Boer War Veterans in Cambridge is now very small. The doyen of them all, Capt. A.E. Longley, now in his 82nd year, will have only one Cambridge comrade – Mr J. Collings – at the reunion.

1952 03 25

Claude Hulbert, the loveable comedian, heads the cast at the Arts Theatre, Cambridge in his brother, Jack's production of the famous farce, "Nothing but the Truth", which ran for 578 performances in London. The Hulberts have many associations with the area. Sons of an Ely doctor both came to Caius College and were enthusiastic members of the Footlights Dramatic Club. Jack appeared at the Arts in "The Hulbert Follies" with his famous wife, Cicely Courtneidge, in July 1941, while Claude had a notable success in "Worth a Million" when he co-starred with Edmund Gwenn and Ruby Miller. CDN c25.3.1952

1952 06 12

With all the familiar colour and dignity of a royal occasion, the date of the Queen's coronation – June 2nd next year – was proclaimed today to the people of the city and county of Cambridge. It was a happy coincidence that it should mark a fitting and optimistic finale to the gay and glittering story of the May Week celebrations. A girl still in her May Ball gown and cloak was amongst a crowd of people outside the Shire Hall courts when the High Sheriff, following a fanfare, read the ancient proclamation. On the Market Square a crowd several hundred strong was silent when the Town Clerk began to read but his voice was all but lost in the howl from jet planes speeding overhead.

1952 08 23

Victoria restyled : "eurythmic": designer, architect & illuminators combine to make symphony of shape, colour & tone" [2.7]

1952 10 13

Arts Theatre ask City Council to help meet their losses but withdraw request "since Council has no pride of ownership of theatre or gratitude over what achieved over last 16 years" [3.3,3.5]

1952 11 08

Some people at the Victoria Cinema almost believed they saw fish swimming above their heads in the middle of the auditorium. Others found it difficult not to duck when a cricket ball appeared to bounce

right out of the screen. The cause was something new in cinema entertainment – the three-dimensional film. At present a special screen has to be used and audiences must wear tinted spectacles. Much still has to be done before stereoscopic films become commonplace but Cambridge is among the first places in England to welcome the arrival of the third dimension in the cinema c52 11 08

1953 02 21

A travel-worn motor coach came to rest on Market Hill, Cambridge, after a 3,000-mile, seven week “Go to Clacton” tour of the Midlands. And Mr E.A. Lainson, Managing Director of Premier Travel Ltd hopes it will bring him £6,000 worth of business this summer. The 35-seater is no ordinary vehicle for the passengers cannot see through the windows. But as a mobile cinema it has taken the golden sands and sunshine of Clacton to hundreds of housewives and factory workers in industrial towns and cities far away from the sea, showing an eight-minute colour film ‘Back to the Sun’

1953 03 25

With a rosy glow reflected on the windows of Great St Mary’s church, a University, City and County congregation paid their last respects to her late Majesty, Queen Mary. While the beautiful gaunt notes of the Dead March in Saul rang through the pillared church there was a silence so complete, so moving as to be perhaps the loveliest and most memorable part of Cambridge people’s memorial to the late Queen. Then led by the Mayor and Corporation the congregation melted out into the brightness of a fine March day. 53 03 25

1953 06 03

On Coronation Day Pye Ltd of Cambridge operated the first colour television outside broadcast ever done in this country. It was seen in a well-known Children’s Hospital and several other selected places. Three colour cameras used in transmission were sited on top of Government buildings facing Parliament Square and Whitehall. Hundreds of people assembled in Cambridge Guildhall to watch the ceremony on television. The latest television screens were used. The picture was clear and precise but there was, of course, no control over the usual interference from electrical appliances which all TV owners are forced to suffer in silence. Six domestic TV sets were installed in the Corn Exchange and because of the bright light, shields were fitted around the screens

1953 07 21

Cambridge City Councillors recommended the partial demolition of the Conduit Head in Market Square. Due to inherent defects and deterioration much of the stone has given way or has fractured. Rebuilding would cost some £2,200. It could be strengthened with steel rods or demolished to the level of the granite plinth. The Conduit was erected in 1855 at a cost of £554. The steps, plinth and base are granite and the structure itself of Ancaster stone

1953 10 07

The fund for re-hanging the bells of Cambridge’s widely famed Great St Mary’s church has raised under £1,000 of the £2,600 needed. The bells were taken down last year because of the ravages of a wood-destroying parasite and now the CDN has decided to open its own Bell Fund to supplement that sponsored by the church. All contributions will be acknowledged in our columns and whether large or small they may be handed in at our office. The CDN is opening its fund with a donation of £25 and hopes there will be a satisfying response. c53 10 07

1953 10 12

The condition of the stone of the conduit head on Cambridge Market Hill has been found to be much worse than anticipated during recent demolition work and so the Council will be recommended not to rebuild it. The condition of the stone was such that the only part which could be safely re-used was the four pillars and the cost of restoration would be at least £4,000, double the previous estimate. They propose to loan the carved figures from the conduit to the Folk Museum.

1953 10 12

A decision not to rebuild the Conduit head in Market Hill, Cambridge was described as a retrograde step by Ald James. "I know it is the fashion to run down Victorian architecture but I think it was very seemly. I think we should rebuild it in the same style". But Ald Priest said "If in ten years' time people see pictures of the Conduit as it was, there will be nothing to prevent them from replacing it by photographs. The majority of people are quite satisfied and the Secretary of the Preservation Society has written to say how nice we have made it".

1953 10 21

Cambridge Daily News feature on Arts Theatre's "17 years of successful endeavour" [3.8]

1954 01 22 c

A tenancy variation of a shop on King's Parade, Cambridge, is a rare occurrence and rarer indeed is the appearance of a new trade to this world-renowned street. From being used as premises for University outfitters A.R. Crossman, no.12a will become K.P. Camera Shop and promises to become as well-known as its parent, Campkins of Cambridge. The firm was established in 1800 and has remained in its present premises at Rose Crescent since 1867

1954 03 18

The bells of St Mary's will soon ring out again due to the famous peal of 12 bells at Gt St Mary's Church, Cambridge, being re-erected after a two-year absence. A new steel frame has replaced the 200-year-old wooden frame which was eaten up and diseased by woodworm. The Coronation was the first that has not been hailed by the early 18th-century peal; they are rung for all national events and used to be rung for new and old masters of Cambridge colleges. There is a 13th bell in the tower; during the First World War it was used as a fire alarm at the First Eastern General Hospital CDN c 18.3.1954

1954 06 22

The usual crowd of Saturday shoppers saw a colourful poster parade through the centre of Cambridge with some 15 people carrying posters bearing the slogans 'You can ban the H-bomb – public protest counts' and 'Make the powers agree to ban the H-bomb – sign the national protest'. The petition, which is supported by the Cambridge Peace Council, seeks to demonstrate the great strength of public opinion. More than 100 signatures were collected while the parade circled the Market Place.

1954 06 26

An unsuccessful attempt was made to make the Cambridge Corn Exchange available for roller skating during the winter months. A petition with 900 signatures had been prepared. The people affected were between the ages of 10 and 25. In summer they could pass their time in the evenings by swimming, cycling and other outdoor amusements but in winter they needed the opportunity for healthy exercise as an alternative to dances and public houses. Many had invested in skates, the cheapest of which cost £7. But it was the only place suitable for badminton and was also used for boxing.

1954 07 19

The Minister's decision on the County Development Plan has been announced. The only major Cambridge items not approved are the site of the bus station between Christ's college & Emmanuel and the proposed development for residential purposes of the smallholding land north of Arbury Road. All the central area road proposals including the 'spine relief road', the new Guildhall Street and a cross-town route joining Emmanuel Street with Downing Street have been approved together with the new Chesterton Bridge over the Cam near Walnut Tree Avenue, a multi-storey car park in Corn Exchange Street and a subway at the railway station.

1954 11 06

Police helmets will be treasured possession in the homes of undergraduates and Cambridge 'Teddy-Boys' who contributed to the Guy Fawkes Night high jinks. One police constable, helmet-less, went back to base for another. But in double-quick time this went too! Frequent clashes broke out between police and revellers. In Market Square a crowd of more than 5,000 screamed, shouted, pushed and

laughed but it was 'good natured fooling'. "Teddy" girls screamed at each bang, unsuspecting undergraduates were pounced on by Proctors and 'Bulldogs' and there were boos and hisses each time an untidy-looking urchin was led away, and each time the urchin would protest his innocence of throwing any fireworks.

1955 02 18

A scheme for the re-development of the Fitzroy Street area as the main commercial centre of Cambridge has been submitted by a London Architect. It is a counter-proposition to the official Development Plan which could only result in the eventual complete destruction of the essential character of the city. The greater part of the area consists of out-dated two-storey cottages with extensive yards and is largely a slum. Re-development is due and can be done without the restrictions of historical associations and high land values. There would be a series of attractive courtyards unencumbered with traffic, one of which is large enough to take the place of the present Market Hill. An essential feature of the scheme is a new thoroughfare to link Gonville Place with Victoria Avenue and complete the inner Ring Road. 55 02 18a

1955 04 07

Cambridge Chamber of Commerce is concerned over the 'No Parking' signs which have appeared in the vicinity of Market Hill. They have been erected to discourage stallholders from using the roadway opposite their stalls as their own private parking space. There were lines of lorries monopolising this part of town and used as temporary warehouses for supplying the stalls. But it also greatly inconvenienced shoppers who wished to leave their cars for a short time and some form of restricted parking would be better. 55 04 07b

1955 05 11

The Arts Theatre unveiled an extension to its Roof Garden restaurant, decorated in gay modern style and complete with the latest Espresso Coffee equipment. Some regretted the reduction of the outdoor terrace space but with the fickle English climate the new area would prove an agreeable amenity both for meals and during theatre intervals. Losses in the theatre could only be made up by profits from the Cinema, scenery studio and catering activities. Once the novelty of television had worn off an increasing number of people would again seek the solid satisfaction of liver performances. 55 05 11 [3.14]

1955 05 26

Francis Sidney Campkin was born 80 years ago in Rose Crescent, above the chemist's which became his whole life's work and hobby. He first helped in the shop when a boy of nine and later qualified as a pharmaceutical chemist. He also took the first examination held by the Spectacle Makers' Company. His keen interest in the optics of photography led to the development of the camera side of the business. He will be greatly missed by his staff who knew him as 'a very fine and kind gentleman'. 55 05 26

1955 06 25

Cambridge came out in the sun for the visit of the Regimental Band of the Coldstream Guards. Crowds lined the market square for the high spot of the day, a march past the Guildhall, and then jammed the roads as they marched to Christ's Pieces for a concert. The purpose of the visit was 'Good will and courtesy – with recruiting into the bargain'. Asked if there had been any results so far an official from the Mill Road recruiting office said 'Not yet, but we have a feeling there will be'. 55 06 25d

1955 10 20

A crowd of several thousand massed in Cambridge Market Place as the Royal procession moved slowly towards the Guildhall. The Queen looked radiant as the Mayor (Ald E. Halnan) presented her with an Electryte Cardiograph adapted by a local firm to monitor the heart of her thoroughbred racehorses. She thanked him warmly saying "this ingenious machine will be put to good use". Then she made an appearance on the balcony, waving to the crowd who cheered back. 55 10 20b

1955 11 14

Dr Billy Graham said his Cambridge mission had been one of the most rewarding of his life. It had won people to Christ, got the University talking about religion and started a revival among Christians. Every available inch of space in Gt St Mary's was filled and many had to be re-directed to Holy Trinity where the service was being relayed. It also went to the universities of Aberdeen, Durham, Manchester and four others. Now he has started his journey back to America 55 11 14

1956 01 19

The new choir vestry of Holy Trinity Church, Cambridge, was dedicated. Using materials of old Cambridge brick and stone it fits well with the existing buildings. It has folding doors leading into the older vestry, making a useful room for meetings. Now urgent repairs to the organ can be undertaken. 56 01 19b

1956 09 08

Baron the famous photographer (Mr Stirling Henry Nahum) commenced his career in Cambridge after his mother gave him a £16 camera. In 1935 he started a correspondence course with the Mallinson School of Journalism and Photography in Rose Crescent and had his lessons posted to Monte Carlo where he was living. He already showed promise and the School sold several of his photographs during the two years he was with them. 56 09 08e

1956 09 29

The new organ at Cambridge's Holy Trinity church will cost approximately £6,000 as compared with the £300 spent on the original organ built in the 1850's by Messrs Walker of Ruislip, who are carrying out the present installation. The original two-manual organ was rebuilt in 1904 by Messrs Bedwell of Cambridge who moved it from the north transept into the organ chamber. 56 09 29b

1956 11 01

Great St Mary's church has been connected with the University since very early times and was used in the past not only for religious services but for academical proceedings. Under an agreement of 1843 the University and parish met the costs of repair and maintenance, but most of the terms are now out of date. Now they are being urged to meet the sole cost of maintaining the clock and the University organ at the west end, and sharing costs of insurance, heating, repair and cleaning. 56 11 01c

1957 01 15

Fewer people are attending Cambridge Corn Market because of the difficulty of finding car parks and it will cease to exist if it is not moved to the Cattle Market, merchants fear. It would relieve traffic congestion in the centre of the city. But a building of the same area as the present Corn Exchange would cost £32,000 and councillors recommended no action. 57 01 15

1957 02 14

Six girls dressed in attractive costumes acted as hostesses as Dutch Dairy Week was launched at a reception where members of the local grocery fraternity they tasted a variety of cheeses. It was a pity that so many famous cheeses had gone out of production, among them the local 'Double-Cottenham'. A Dutch caravan will be stationed on Peas Hill where people can sample as much as they could take. 57 02 14

1957 08 21

University Aunts offer a wide range of services from their offices in Wheeler Street, including arranging accommodation, escorting foreign visitors, typing theses, personal shopping or finding people to look after babies. Students form a large part of their clientele seeking bachelor mending, quick laundry or girl partners for dances. The Head Aunts depend on a network of part-time helpers and need women with initiative to act as emergency housekeepers. 57 08 21

1957 10 01

The removal of the mighty organ from the pit of the Victoria Cinema illustrates graphically how far this kind of musical entertainment has fallen from public favour. The only other cinema organ in Cambridge – that at the Regal – is never seen without its dust cover. The management says it is kept in good order and could be played at any time. However it would need a travelling organist to come up from A.B.C. headquarters in London. If the truth be told it is in permanent retirement. 57 10 01b

1957 10 18

In 20 years' time Lion Yard car park will be outdated as the centre of the City will eventually have to be roped off from traffic, Canon Mervyn Stockwood told the council. He had frequently been up to the top of Great St Mary's and seen the appalling havoc of the central area in recent years. Now they proposed to put up a 'cheap and efficient sort of skyscraper'. He continued: "We are custodians of one of the most famous cities in the world. That sort of building cannot add to the dignity and loveliness of Cambridge" 57 10 18c

1957 12 17

One of Cambridge's most famous pubs, the "Still and Sugarloaf" on Market Hill has been so completely modernised that it bears no resemblance to its former self. The only old part is the floor and even that has been sanded down and polished. The new lounge bar is the last word in luxury, warmth and comfort and features a brand new games room. 57 12 17a, 14 & a

1958 05 23

Sno-cat on Market Hill – photo – 58 05 23

1958 06 19

Market Street fire – 58 06 19

1958 09 20

The re-introduction of professional wrestling to Cambridge by Dale Martin Promotions proved very popular. Large crowds filled the Corn Exchange to watch an international heavyweight contest between Tibor Czakacs (Budapest) and Joseph Zaranoff of Russia. Spencer Churchill (London) lost to Charlie Fisher of Eltham and Tommy Mann of Manchester beat Al Nicol of Nottingham by two straight falls. Then Mick McManus knocked-out Jackie Pallo with a flying shoulder charge. 58 09 20

1958 12 12

King's College announced a new rebuilding scheme in the city centre which will mean the demolition of the Central Hotel and café to provide more accommodation for students and a better headquarters for the Cambridge branch of the Midland Bank. The Bursar said the structure of the existing building is in a very parlous state and they could not for structural safety do less than rebuilding completely the whole interior. However this would only be forcing new wine into an old bottle so they had commissioned the design of a new building by Mr K.W. Capon of Architects' Co. Partnership. 58 12 12c

1959 01 16

The new plan for the centre of Cambridge will have as its central feature a 'pedestrian shopping precinct' from which all vehicles will be excluded. An earlier scheme which foresaw a new and widened Guildhall Street running through the Lion Yard, with new shops and a multi-deck car park, has now been dropped after being criticised as likely to attract too much extra traffic. The proposal incorporates a car park which might be placed underground. But it is certain that Corn Exchange Street would become an important vehicular road. 59 01 16

1959 04 15

'Milkmaid' new milk and cheese bar, Market Hill – 59 04 15

1959 05 05

Modern traffic problems have brought to an end a Cambridge tradition. David's Bookstall has occupied its site on Peas Hill on Saturdays for more than 60 years but recently the street has been turned into an area where the parking of cars is prohibited during the busiest time of the day. Motorists objected that the stall took up as much space as any car so Mr Ashley Hubert David was asked if he would move his Saturday stall to its weekday position on the market square. Many customers are indignant about the change. 59 05 05 & a

1959 06 04

St Edward's Passage development – opposition – 59 06 04

1959 08 14

Local history is repeated: 1859 plans for redevelopment of Market Hill – 59 08 14b

1959 09 02

Frederick Mansfield was 'the character' of Cambridge market for nearly 50 years. He took over a book and toy stall opposite the Victoria Cinema from his parents and the family hope this will be now continued by his youngest son. Other stallholders speak of him as a cheerful and helpful man and a 'real market character' well-loved by all, especially the children for whom he always had a cheerful world. 59 09 02b

1959 12 03

A monitor screen at the back of the church, shirt-sleeved technicians tip-toeing around, cameras rolling silently up and down the aisle and bright glaring lights pointing in every direction. This was just a part of what was involved in the telerecording of a Christmas service in Gt St Mary's church. It is to be shown by Anglia Television on Christmas night. The service was intended as a corporate act of worship for overseas students in Cambridge and a reminder of how the nations of the world might live together 59 12 03b & c

1959 12 17

There are a quarter of an acre of tunnels under Peas Hill which were used as air raid shelters during the War. They were wired for electricity, lavatories were installed and wooden seats fitted in the tunnel recesses. Oil lamps were kept close at hand in case of emergency. Quite a number of people used the shelter during day-time raids and some slept down there when there was night bombing. 'Roadsters' used them every night to sleep. They were terribly damp when first used but after a few days became quite comfortable. 59 12 17

1959 12 21

The controversy surrounding the Central Hotel in Peas Hill, which King's College want to knock down and replace by a new hostel for students has reached a new stage with the publication of a booklet. The St Edward's Committee was established when it was announced that the Central Hotel, a largely 17th-century building forming an integral part of a square around St Edward's churchyard, was to all appearances doomed. They believe it could be preserved and are pressing for a public inquiry into the proposals. 59 12 21c & d

1960s The Cambridgeshire Collection has detailed newspaper cuttings files from this date which are more detailed than this selection. They cover Market Hill, Market Street, Guildhall, Corn Exchange, Rose Crescent and other topics

1960

1960 01 07

Central Hotel preservation call – 60 01 07

1960 01 08

King's College has replied to criticism of its plans to demolish the 17th-century Central Hotel on the corner of St Edward's Passage and Peas Hill. Whilst the Midland Bank premises are scheduled as an ancient monument, the St Edward's Passage premises are not. The College has considered eleven schemes for the site, some of which would preserve the façade, but the preservation of the interior was a hopelessly haphazard proposition. Their architect has taken infinite care to ensure the new building preserves the essentially domestic character of St Edward's Passage, says Noel Annan, the Provost. 60 01 08b

1960 02 10

The St Edward's Committee may launch a fund to buy the Central Hotel in Peas Hill and house students in converted rooms. King's College, the owner, says it would prefer to sell the building rather than undertake the work of preservation. The Holford Committee which suggested demolishing it has now decided to study the merits of the building 60 02 10

1960 03 09

Central hotel sketch 60 03 09

1960 03 09

Central hotel college attitude 60 03 09

1960 03 10

A final decision to demolish the Central Hotel was made by King's College after discussion with the Cambridge Preservation Society. Only five Fellows voted to try to preserve the St Edward's Passage façade while demolishing the rest. Everybody agrees that the interior was in a hopeless state of disrepair. When the college bought the property in 1936 they intended to develop the site. In 1956 they concluded that no part of the hotel could be preserved and commissioned a new building. 60 03 10

1960 03 18

Pub inn signs have been making a comeback. The Blue Lion at Fen Ditton has a three-dimensional figure of the heraldic beast, The Angel in Market Street have put up a very pleasant sign while the new Snocat on the Arbury estate commemorates Sir Vivian Fuch's journey to the South Pole. One of the nicest of the old signs is the big glowing Golden Rose which grows out of the wall over the door of the little public house in Emmanuel Street 60 03 18b

1960 03 24

Builders are now shoring up the interior of the Central Hotel in Peas Hill prior to demolition. Yesterday the Central Tea Bar, which occupied the corner of Market Hill and St Edward's Passage, closed and bricks were piled in front of its entrance. The Midland Bank will stay in the building although some changes will have to be made while the first phase is completed. The new building should be ready in about two years 60 03 24a

1960 04 01

Macintosh and Sons, the long-establish firm of ironmongers have moved their showrooms from Cambridge Market Hill to Mill Road owing to the congestion in the town centre. "The days have gone when farmers could pull up with their horse and trap to purchase instruments", they say. From the new warehouse and instrument shed they sell anything from a hand tool to a combine harvester costing over £2,000. Nearby stands the foundry that was in use until 30 years ago where they made lamp standards and ploughshares for the Town Council. 60 04 01a

1960 04 08

A last-minute bid to save the Central Hotel was made too late. Fore builders are preparing for the final stage of demolition of the historic building in Peas Hill. 60 04 08

1960 05 21

In demolishing the old Central Hotel near Cambridge Market Place, the contractors have found it to be in a worse condition than they anticipated, but it has conformed fairly accurately to the surveyor's report prepared by King's College who own the site. The comparatively recent facings of the interior of the building were concealing a rotting structure underneath and the building has to be pulled down with extreme care – almost brick by brick. The hotel is being pulled down in two phases of which the first has now been completed. The first half of the new building will be erected before the second half is pulled down 60 05 21a

1960 06 03

For most people sweeping the roads would be a boring and wholly irksome task. But to Arthur Morgan, who has done it for 20 years, it is always interesting and occasionally exciting with ample scope for meeting people. Arthur, a sprightly man of 63 was once an army sniper but now sweeps the Market Square twice a day though he dislikes having to dodge the traffic. Cinema queues shed a quantity of litter which he carts away in his barrow without complaint. He has come across many items of values including rings, watches and on one occasion a car bonnet! 60 06 03a

1960 06 11

Arts Theatre appeal for £75,000 memory Keynes [7.12]

1960 08 26

Cambridge roller-skating enthusiasts will be able to enjoy an extra day's pleasure this season because the man who rents the Corn Exchange rink is superstitious. John Harris, who runs a chain of rinks round the country, never likes reopening on Fridays. Local skaters took full advantage and several dozen were speeding round the wooden floor within minutes of opening time. His Cambridge manager W. Lloyd-Worth, who has spent over 50 years in the roller and ice-skating business, hopes to organise National Skating Association championships and has sought proctorial permission from the University. 60 08 26

1960 09 07

The widening of the Market Street – Petty Cury area of Sidney Street will complement the part that was completed before the war when the Boots and Trueform buildings were erected. Some people feel that the road nearer Jesus Lane is a greater priority but the widened section by the two bus stops outside Holy Trinity will relieve traffic congestion. There is no intention of completing the process right through to Bridge Street says T.V. Burrows, the City Surveyor. 60 09 07

1960 09 09

The roller skating rink at Cambridge Corn Exchange attracts enthusiasts from a large area. Saturday morning is the children's morning and with its yards of bunting, the otherwise sombre building has a carnival air. From the very young to the really quite grown up they were tumbling about, wobbling precariously round the perimeter or pirouetting stylishly in the centre. Some of the girls swooped round in short costumes while the run-of-the-mill dressed for the rough and tumble in trousers. Skaters pay one shilling and sixpence (8p) which includes the hire of skates. The rink is leased to J.W. Harris, who also has one at Hunstanton, and is managed by Mr Lloyd Worth who has been a professional in the skating business for 53 years. 60 09 09c

1960 10 18

The Vice Chancellor has banned all undergraduates from taking part in Guy Fawkes Night celebrations in the city centre. In recent years November 5th had been marked by particularly destructive and violent acts, including the use of home-make fireworks, which have caused painful injuries to innocent bystanders. Although students have played only a minor part at the occasions the University are under an obligation to help the city authorities check such disorderly conduct. Now Market Hill and the surrounding area will be out of bounds to members of the University 'in statu pupillari' between 7 pm and midnight 60 10 18

1960 11 09

Last market stall for Mrs B.M. Hughes, handicraft maker; profit to Cambridge Association for Social Welfare – 60 11 09

1960 11 26

Bus island in Peas Hill relieves traffic congestion outside Guildhall – 60 11 26

1960 12 30

Market stall holders are among Cambridge's most colourful characters. Many have taken over the stalls from their fathers or grandfathers, often reaching back five or six generations. There are a handful of names which provide the nucleus of the traders – Whitehead, David, Sharp, Reynolds, Simpkins and several others. Charles Whitehead has stood at his greengrocery stall since he was 14, Messrs Miller and Beresford are in charge of the pets stall and Mrs Sharp has been selling old silver and brasses for 52 years. They believe that as long as they are straight and fair in their dealings, competition cannot harm them – 60 12 30b

1961 02 11

Central Hotel redevelopment photo – 61 02 11a

1961 04 25

'Beyond the Fringe' hit the Arts Theatre audience with the force of a thunderbolt. The four young men performed throughout in lounge suits against an unchanging background. There was Jonathan Miller, elastic in voice, features and limbs, Peter Cook with his more serious type of humour and semi-apologetic expression and Alan Bennett who looks like a cross between an aged professor and an endearing but mischievous schoolboy. The music was in the hands of pianist Dudley Moore, whose prize piece was a variation of 'Colonel Bogey'. It was certainly a revue in the highest calibre of entertainment 61 04 25

1961 06 08

Thirteen members of the Christ's College Milton Society took part in the traditional annual 'pilgrimage' to the main door of Great St Mary's Church to burn the works of T.S. Eliot. With caps and gowns, and carrying a bust of the poet Milton, the undergraduates walked in procession through the crowded Market Square. Then in front of the church the 'damnable and dangerous works' of T.S. Eliot (Penguin edition) were set in flames on the paving stones. Crowds appeared from nowhere, cameras were clicked, and passages of Milton read before the procession returned towards Christ's and noggins of nut brown ale 61 06 08a

1961 07 03

Stanley Rose's old-established butchers is one of the few properties in Petty Cury remaining in private hands. He acquired the premises in the early 1930s, moving from a site in Market Hill which was then being demolished for make way for the new Guildhall where the family firm had been established for three generations. He is now retiring and the business will be transferred to W.J. Adkins, the local firm of butchers. The premises have been acquired by Messrs Peter Lord, the shoe specialists. 61 07 03d

1961 07 12

A new car park attendant's hut has been installed on Cambridge Market Square. The original hut was badly damaged by fire during the Guy Fawkes celebrations two years ago and replaced by a temporary one. It is expected to be in use later this week 61 07 12

1961 10 05

Harry Runham has retired after more than 30 years as car park attendant on Cambridge Market Hill. When he started in 1930 comparatively few vehicles were left there, owners being charged 6d for all-day parking. As the volume of traffic increased, the bull-nosed Morris gave way to other cars, lorries and motor cycles while fees for all-day parking increased until the present figure of two shillings was reached. 61 10 05

1961 11 16

A cluster of balloons was flown over Cambridge to give an idea of how the proposed 200ft towers of the 'Science Island' off Corn Exchange Street would look from the Backs behind the famous King's College Chapel. Theodolite readings were also taken from Rose Crescent. The proposal has been rejected by planners 61 11 16a & b

1961 11 23

Claude Kirkup became manager of Cambridge cattle market in 1936 and has seen tremendous changes. He can remember the days when sheep and pigs were brought to the market in tumbrel carts or by horse and cart. With the advent of motor traffic the market increased ten-fold and animals now come from a very wide radius. Many Continental buyers attend the Monday agricultural machinery sales. 61 11 23

1961 12 01

A bold scheme to transform Cambridge Market Hill into the 'finest piazza in Europe' would involve banning traffic in King's Parade, demolition of a few buildings on the corner of St Mary's Passage and the complete clearance of the Market Place. The screen in front of King's college would be removed and the Senate House and Law Department buildings linked together to form one magnificent spacious vista, says architect G.M. Vickers 61 12 01b

1961 12 18

A new vestry block, a garden of rest, memorial tablet and some new windows were dedicated at Great St Mary's Church. 61 12 18 [10.3]

1962 03 30

Cambridge Central Library has spent 100 years in Wheeler Street. Drastic and effective reforms took place between 1954 and 1959 to make more efficient use of staff, facilitate access to the shelves for ticket-holders and give the children their own library. Space was cleared in the reference library (formerly the reading room) to seat 47 people. Reference library staff are generally able to lay their hands on a diversity of volumes relating to every aspect of any subject almost before the reader has formulated his real requirements. Year by year the service becomes more far-reaching and the qualifications demanded of librarians become more exacting. 62 03 30

1962 04 05

The new Victoria Ballroom was opened by Ronald Fraser, the film and television star, who had previously appeared at the Regal Cinema as part of its 25th anniversary celebrations. Converted from a café above the Victoria Cinema, it will reduce the number of 'wallflowers' on Saturday nights when special buffet dinner dances are being run at a cost of a guinea for a double ticket. When not in use for dancing it will still be put into service as a café 62 04 05 [5.3]

1962 04 06

Angel public house, Market Street bought by the unknown purchaser of Macintosh's – 62 04 06c

1962 04 30

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament's mock funeral march through the centre of Cambridge caused traffic congestion, provoked an anti-CND march and met with a noisy reception from undergraduates in the Market Square. The 'funeral cortege' stretched for 300 yards behind a child's coffin carried by two pall bearers. Altogether 400 'mourners' took part in the march including Mr Gabor Cossa, the antique dealer. A Committee of 100 contingent joined in a demonstration at the Government buildings in Brooklands Avenue 62 04 30a

1962 05 07

Mr Jack Cotton and Mr Charles Clore, the property millionaires, have bought the site of Heffer's from Emmanuel College on the understanding that the bookshop will be rehoused in any new redevelopment of Petty Cury. Their company, City Centre Properties, acquired the adjoining Lion Hotel site last year. The Director of Dolamore, the wine merchants, who hold the freehold of most of the corner with Guildhall Street, would not say whether they had also approached them. Recently this part of Petty Cury was included in the area scheduled for redevelopment. The firm also have an interest in the New Theatre site which is now being demolished to be replaced by a block of offices
62 05 07

1962 09 13

Sir - Cambridge fruit costs more on Cambridge market than in London since most cannot be sold locally at any price and is sent to larger towns. Good apples from Histon sold in Manchester for a shilling per half bushel. But expenses consumed 10d and the grower got only 2d. In his own market the grower tries to sell at remunerative prices. The only people who can sell cheaper than market traders are the hawkers. There are dozens of large lorries that hawk all over Cambridge and pay not one penny towards the expenses of the town. Yet market stallholders have to pay a very heavy toll –
John Hall 62 09 13f

1962 10 24

A crowd of 5,000 people, mainly students, swarmed through Cambridge after police and Proctors stopped a political protest rally about the American-Cuban crisis on the Market Square. Carrying placards declaring 'Hands Off Cuba' they made their way to Parker's Piece where the meeting got under way with speakers both supporting and opposing President Kennedy's moves. One warned 'We are on the verge of a nuclear war'. Later police prevented another rally outside the Guildhall where demonstrators hammered on the side of passing buses. 62 10 24

1962 12 07

John Shrive had osier beds at Horningsea and Fen Ditton until he died 40 years ago, employing five men to grow and cut them with bundles kept moist in the Green End ditch until needed. Most of the women of Fen Ditton were employed in peeling or cleaving on a casual basis, sitting on each side of the road with their bundles beside them. Stripped osiers were collected by horse and cart then taken to Mr Shrive's workshop in East Road where they were woven into baskets to be sold from his shop on Peas Hill. School reports up to 1912 list frequent absenteeism with children 'helping with rod peeling'
62 12 07a

1963 01 25

Macintosh's premises, Market Street being demolished – photo – 63 01 25a

1963 02 01

Macintosh and Sons of Market Hill, Cambridge, one of the oldest ironmongery firms in the country, has been sold to an unknown purchaser. The firm's earliest records date back to 1688 when the business was sold to the Finch family. They kept it going for 200 years before it was taken over by William Macintosh who'd been in business in Sidney Street. A major redevelopment scheme is proposed for the site after their retail premises close in September. The wholesale, agricultural and workshop departments will continue to trade from 349 Mill Road 63 02 01a

1963 05 15

In 1869 William Weatherhead purchased the business of John Hatt, a bookseller and printseller in Union Street, now Peas Hill. Then in 1886 took over an established stationers' shop in Trinity Street. The two merged at his death in 1907, added a wholesale department and flourished until 1936 when they moved to its present premises in the Caius College development on Market Hill. Now it has been acquired by W.H. Smith 63 05 15a

1963 07 10

A court heard of a secret meeting along the Cambridge-Newmarket Road once a week when American cigarettes and bottles of spirits were exchanged. An Isleham labourer pleaded guilty to five charges involving two cameras, 6,460 cigarettes, 44 bottles of spirits and one bottle of wine on which duty had not been paid. While working at Mickey's tea bar at RAF Mildenhall he'd lent money to American servicemen was paid back partly in cigarettes. Later an airman asked him to sell liquor for him to a 'gypsy-looking man' in a pub near Cambridge Market 63 07 10

1963 08 03

Parts of a tall building overlooking Cambridge Market Square are having to be evacuated because it is a danger to both occupants and the public. Some movement has taken place at 15 Market Street which is partially occupied by Watches of Switzerland. Premier Travel and the United Dominions Trust have already moved to temporary offices. Workmen will start shoring up the building from the inside to stabilise it and remove the danger 63 08 03

1963 09 11

Market Hill modernisation of offices of Leicester Permanent Building Society – 63 09 11

1963 11 09

Cambridge had a carnival atmosphere for the annual Poppy Day Rag. A procession of 35 gay noisy floats was the first 'organised' procession in rag history. They depicted the Great Train Robbery and the Channel Tunnel. Degrees were sold outside the Senate House, passers-by were menaced with toy guns and undergraduates scrubbed zebra crossing, delaying motorists who were surrounded by students waving collecting tins. It was claimed that The Beatles pop group had been kidnapped and would be sold in Market Square. But News Agency reports say they were returning to Liverpool by car after a tour of Ireland. 63 11 09, a,b

1963 12 16

Gt St Mary's holds beat service to attract young [10.3]

1964 01 02

Plans for a temporary information office in a caravan or sectional hut on Market Hill found little favour with councillors: it would be inaccessible because it would be surrounded by stalls or parked cars. They think the present information centre should remain in the Central Reference Library in Wheeler Street which has experienced much greater use since direction signs have been erected. There would be little demand for Sunday opening – we are not in the same position as Southend or Brighton in trying to attract people. 64 01 02

1964 01 09

Down Your Street article by Erica Dimock on Peas Hill [RA1.4.82]

1964 01 24

At 84, Harry Capon is the oldest stallholder on the Cambridge market. He sells the same type of fancy goods as when he first set up the stall at 16. "Every Monday and Saturday I get up at 5.30 and load up the trolley with the goods and pull it from my house in Coronation Street. I set the stuff out on the stall then it's sell, sell, sell until 6pm when I start to pack up. Again another hour or so to load the trolley and then back home to bed about 9 pm. Two days a week I go up the London and the warehouses; I often get a lift with a fruiter and he leaves me at Hyde Park Corner on the way to Covent Garden", he says., adding "The market is slowly dying ... fewer people and fewer stalls" 64 01 24

1964 02 13

Down Your Street article by Erica Dimock on Rose Crescent

1964 03 06

Alice Springs was named after Alice Bell, daughter of Peas Hill corn merchant – 64 03 06b

1964 03 20

Although the pharmacy of A. Sidney Campkin and Sons of Rose Crescent is modern, it retains unique links with a long history. It still offers for sale Brewster's balsham of squills, horehound and aniseed as well as ear canker lotion for dogs. In 1955 the business passed to Mr T.E.W. Howell and now has a labour force of more than 60. It has had a 'facelift' but is still one of the older-fashioned chemists of Cambridge. 64 03 20d

1964 04 02

The Mayor of Cambridge fed a parking meter on Peas Hill with a shilling "to make them hungry and ready to bite" as one official put it, and set the new parking scheme in motion. Long queues of traffic soon formed in streets leading to the Lion Yard car park and motorists had some acid remarks about the meters. A moped rider complained about finding a ticket stuck to his bike with thirteen inches of sticky tape. From the number of excess charges shown on the meters the city coffers will soon begin to bulge 64 04 02b

1964 05 01

Arts Cinema is oldest repertory cinema in country; Norman Higgins opened it in 1933. Previously at the Tivoli he founded an undergraduate film society and leased Conservative Hall in Market Passage. Began showing films all year round in 1947 – 64 05 01cc

1964 05 08

Every Saturday children start arriving at the Victoria and Central cinemas for the matinee performances. Many are brought by their mothers who are grateful for the chance to do the weekend shopping without them. Before the film starts they sing 'We are Minors of the A.B.C.' to the tune of 'Blaze Away'. There's always one cartoon like Tweetie Pie, then the serial in which the action is fast and furious. It's followed by a short comedy film, then a full-length feature with plenty of action, usually made by the Children's Film Foundation 64 05 08

1964 06 06

The Victoria Ballroom in market square is the principal rendezvous for groups such as The Undertakers, The Moving Coils, Black Diamonds and Dawnbreakers. Most nights it provides a musical attraction: jazz sessions on Tuesday with top flight bands such as Kenny Ball and Chris Barber. But just around the corner the Dorothy Restaurant has featured Kathy Kirby, the Merseybeats and Manfred Mann. Helping to bury the old cry that Cambridge is 'dead' after dark are the cellar-bar 'shuffles' where regulation dress is jeans or slacks, sloppy sweaters and dark glasses. When not twisting or shaking the current rage for both sexes is to smoke miniature cigars and drink 'James Bonds' 64 06 06b

1964 07 23

Cambridge News 'Down Your Street' article on Bene't Street published – surveys street and people – 64 07 23

1964 07 06

Cambridge expansion: Conservatives would like to encourage businesses which start in the town and want the Market Square to be the main centre. Socialists want new light industries with the Lion Yard as a civic centre and with new shopping in Burleigh Street while the Liberals favour a central pedestrian precinct with public transport in the form of a minibus service or travloator. 64 07 06a

1964 07 23

Down Your Street article by Erica Dimock on Bene't Street

1964 09 10

Down Your Street article by Erica Dimock on Market Hill: in an important series featuring tradesmen and residents in different areas of Cambridge

1964 11 16

Fears that the new ultra-modern building in Cambridge market square would bring an outcry from nearby traders have not materialised. Instead many of them say that the building, which replaces Mackintosh's the ironmongers, is an example to be followed. There will be shops on the ground floor and luxury flats above. Mr D.F. Yates, manager of Crown Wallpapers thinks it is an example of what neighbouring premises should look like. Mr A. Hall manager of Saxone Shoe Company agrees. But Mr Victor Balham of Bacon Bros the tobacconists does not think it the best of contemporary architecture. 64 11 16a

1964 12 10

Information bureau on Market Hill opposed – 64 12 10d

1965 01 14

Smart & Son, the outfitters in Market Street, has been run by the same family for more than 150 years. But now they are to move to Mill Road and the shop sold – 65 01 14

1965 03 27

The new corn market building on the Cattle Market site will replace the old Saturday corn market held in the Corn Exchange. Merchants have been advocating a move for 10 years and now it is hoped the market will revive. An encouraging number of people want to take stalls. The cost of desk or box in the new building is £10 a year. People who attend to buy or sell are charged £3 for an annual ticket. Visitors are admitted free. It will also provide a small new hall for the Cherry Hinton Road – Hills Road district 65 03 27a

1965 04 04

Walker & Walker, Market Hill tailors since 1849 close, served Edward VII when Prince of Wales, undergraduates no longer use them [13.2]

1965 04 12

Yardbirds cancel Corn Exchange concert due to flu – 65 04 12b

1965 09 17

Bus jam Market Hill – photo – 65 09 17c

1965 12 02

W.I. Market stall celebrates 2nd anniversary – 65 12 02c

1965 12 14

Conservative Club, Market Passage could close due financial crisis – 65 12 14c

1966 01 21

Gt St Mary's holds first ecumenical service of Holy Communion [10.3]

1966 04 18

Guildhall needs more space, either extension or rent space in Barrett Building, Rose Crescent – 66 04 18f

1966 05 06

University Audio adds Record Shop to its high-fidelity audio. Peas Hill – 66 05 06

1966 05 24

Corn Exchange may be adapted for council offices or used as library – plans – 66 05 24, 66 06 20

1966 09 01

House of Dolamore bought wine and spirit business of George Morley in Petty Cury and Guildhall Street some 80 years ago; now has new address in Wellington Street – 66 09 01 & 1a

1966 09 10

Eaden Lilley men and boys clothing shop in Market Street is for sale; will move to main department store; have owned since 1907; have recently bought Smart's outfitters' shop – 66 09 10

1966 11 08

Motor show exhibition, Corn Exchange – 66 11 08

1966 11 16

Market St - Macintosh replacement building opens - new ultra-modern, next Watches of Switzerland [494.4.17]

1967 01 13

Offices rented Barrett Building, Rose Crescent, otherwise Guildhall expansion [6.7]

1967 01 31

Tubular stalls proposed for Market which removable for weekend car parking [4.4]

1967 02 24

Market Hill no.5 was originally a private house for Watson family of grocers; has a rich shell hood with painted ceilings; building sold to mystery buyer – 67 02 24

1967 03 04

Dutch façade revealed on building during demolition work for Eaden Lilley; believed to be the only remaining trace of an old alleyway which ran parallel with Market Street – 67 03 04

1967 09 25

Gt St Mary's multi-faith service picketed [10.3]

1967 10 06

Victoria Cinema reopens with giant 70 mm screen, luxury lounge area replacing seats on ground floor; restaurant and ballroom refurbished – 67 10 06

1967 10 16

Parish Pump Peas Hill removed for repairs but no re-erection due to cost, was used to wash down old fish market; goes to Folk Museum [3.5]

1967 11 08

Abbott's Cambridge Tourist Centre started when American tour party let down; grew until 50 university students handling tours to Cambridge; then diversified into foreign travel by local residents; moved Guildhall St by Dec 1959 – 67 11 08a

1968 01 01

Market Hill fountain from CIP 1858 - 68 01 01

1968 03 26

Criterion pub, Market Passage to close – brewery cannot afford new rent asked by owners, the Edward Storey Trust – 68 03 26b

1968 04 04

Walker and Walker, Market Hill tailors, to close; been there since 1849 and departure will leave only Bacons as original member of Colonnade group of shops; have served Edward VII when Prince of Wales; blame expiration of lease, rising rates and fewer old-style customers – 68 04 04

1968 08 20

David book stall on Market increases prices – feature – 68 08 20

1969 06 23

Cambridge News new offices, Market St replacing St Andrews Street [7.8,15.2]]

1969 09 20

Proposal to cut Market Place in half five days for car parking, in Oct 43 cars parked when under new scheme would be space for 36; stallholders protest, 6000 petition, plans delayed; experimental parking ban with every stall occupied 6 days a week - at present only half occupied Monday-Friday; new stalls introduced [4.5]

1969 09 24

Market holders discontent over plans for Market Square – 69 09 24; plans delayed – 69 09 25; plans outlined – 69 10 01, 01a

1970

1971 01 21

Jonas Moore statue moves from Corn Exchange; to relocate to South Cambs DC HQ, Hills Road – 71 01 21b

1971 03 12

Market Hill redevelopment – British Cinemas to build offices and shops at 3-5 but plaster ceilings and beams to be preserved – 71 03 12

1971 04 24

Corn Exchange may be converted to concert hall – 71 04 24a

1972 03 18

Cambridge voted a big Yes to the permanent closure of Petty Cury in a survey. The results published today show that 92.1 per cent agreed that the closure had added to the convenience of shoppers. There was also overwhelming feeling that the experiment should be tried on other roads. The most common comment was "Close the whole Market Square to traffic"

1972 05 12

Robinson and Gimbert, the Cambridge builders with reputation for high class work have been taken over by one of the "big boys" of British home building. From next week they will be trading under the direction of T & E Homes Ltd of Reigate. The Cambridge firm who started in Guildhall Street 25 years ago and moved to Victoria Road six years ago have 60 full time employees. Robinson and Gimbert currently have schemes on the go at Oakington and Stapleford, and recently completed one at Waterbeach. They build about 50 houses a year

1972 05 19

A Cambridge building which has had a richly varied history enters yet another era of its life when Eastern Electricity's enlarged shop opens at 4 Market Hill on Monday. At different stages of its history the Market Hill building has been a cinema - oldies of the "penny-gas" days of the early twenties before the talkies were projected on to the wall of what is now a sub-station behind the shop - and a tearoom frequented by undergraduates, who took their 1920's tea and muffins in the panelled room upstairs

1972 06 12

I have just had my first and last visit to Cambridge. I walked half-way round the city to find a toilet. I was directed to the one on the market. It stank so much I would not use it. Getting back to the market - it is a disgrace, with old clothes stalls which smelt and old vegetable leaves on the floor a danger to the public. There were about two decent stalls there and in the centre round the fountain were the drunks, a revolting sight - letter from visitor from Bexhill, Kent

1972 07 05

Arts The Cambridge Arts Theatre has suffered "staggering" financial losses this year - often £1,000 a week - and the Secretary and General Manager, Mr Andrew Blackwood, said yesterday : "We can't go on like that. We would soon be out of business". The reason for high production costs was that touring companies require guarantees of £1,500 or more before they would visit Cambridge. Seat prices generally ranged from 40p-90p and 50p-£1. Audience attendance figures were 14,000 down on the year - and he blamed Cambridge's impossible car parking situation for the loss c72 07 5 [7.13]

1972 09 13

A full-time tourist officer should be appointed for Cambridge, a special meeting on tourism decided yesterday. They also agreed that a disused car park attendant's hut on the Market Square should be commissioned as a tourist information centre. The Mayor, Coun. Peter Wright suggested that voluntary workers could staff a tourist information kiosk in Market Square. The City Librarian, Mr Eric Cave, suggested that if the kiosk plan went ahead it could remain open on Sundays so that the present Sunday skeleton service at the Information bureau could be closed down.

1972 09 15

Two men have launched in Cambridge a unique publications and visual aids service for industry to fill the gap between straight advertising and full scale book publication. Their firm, Woodhead-Faulkner (Publishers) Ltd began business at 7 Rose Crescent this week. The whole concept is one of "below the line" advertising in which firms sponsor books in highly specialist fields while at the same time getting publicity for their products from the sponsorship

1972 11 15

Young people in Cambridge have lost their Saturday night dances - the high spot of their week - and this has meant more violence in the city, Steve, an apprentice chef at Christ's college claims. The Dorothy - the city's best known catering and dancing centre - closed in August. Teenagers have looked for other dances, but tend to spend more time wandering around looking for somewhere to go that staying in any place. Saturday night dances at the Corn Exchange suit another type of person, said Steve. They prefer a different sort of music, which he describes as "heavy". He and other young people who frequented the Dorothy preferred Tamla Motown music. There are more than 80 people who used to go to the Dorothy. Many of these now wander the streets of Cambridge, travelling from one pub to another looking for something to do.

1972 11 17

Plans for the conversion of Cambridge's Corn Exchange to a 1,500-seat concert hall costing £936,200 will be considered at the inaugural meeting of the Concert Hall Action group. Before the meeting will be a feasibility study drawn up by Arup Associates, the London consultants who were responsible for the Maltings concert hall at Snape. One of the partners said "not only Cambridge, but Britain as a whole, will gain a concert hall of potentially international stature". The study recommends an extension to the Corn Exchange involving the closure of Parsons Court and the acquisition of other properties on its west side

1973 03 01

The building where the first electricity for lighting in Cambridge was generated is now on the market. The property, No.2 Market Passage, was the premises of Bailey, Grundy and Barrett, electrical contractors. In 1891 the firm produced the first electricity for lighting in the city with a gas engine and a dynamo installed in the basement. In those early days private electrical generating plants were

supplied by the company to several of the Cambridge colleges. Until after the 1914-18 war such plants continued to be installed in country houses in outlying districts. As this business declined, the company moved into wireless, the design and making of temperature control equipment for laboratories and other specialised apparatus

1973 04 09

The Market Square ends of Guildhall Street and Peas Hill, Cambridge, were closed to traffic today as part of city council's plans eventually to make much of the central area into a pedestrian precinct. It is now possible to walk from Sidney Street to King's Parade without crossing a road. City surveyor, Mr Geoffrey Cresswell said that some motorists were still driving round Market Square attempting to get into Peas Hill. The present closure is officially regarded as only "temporary" - although it will last for possibly another two years - while rebuilding of the adjacent Lion Yard site is under way

1973 08 09

Cambridge is breaking all records this year for visitors. Business at the city council's tourist information bureau has almost doubled and staff are working flat out to cope with the demand for help and advice. The council's new hotel booking service has been overwhelmed by visitors looking for rooms and late yesterday a queue of tourists looking for accommodation had formed at the Guildhall bureau. Miss Margaret Badcock, who is in charge of tourist information estimates that the market square kiosk is handling up to 300 questions a day. She estimates that business was up by between 80 and 90 per cent

1973 08 24

At the Gardenia Middle Eastern Restaurant in Rose Crescent, Cambridge, I began with Hoummous (25p), a thickish paste made with chick peas and oil which you scoop up with pieces of unleavened bread. It was quite tasty though for the price not particularly plentiful. It is not particularly elegant tackling by hand a four-skewer kebab (60p) in an envelope of unleavened bread with bits of onion and tomato spilling out. But the Gardenia does not pretend to be the place to take a grande dame out to dinner with candles. The Kadeifi (15p) which followed looked on the plate like a prandial imitation of Dougal, everyone's favourite long-haired television dog.

1973 09 21

Like some great suicidal spider Cambridge will have eaten its heart out by the turn of the century. Such is the dramatic prophecy of Professor John Parry Lewis who has been making a complete study of its future. Specifically he is saying is that if Cambridge proceeds with the scheme to build a twin shopping centre in the Fitzroy Street - Burleigh street area it will be signing the death knell of the present Market Square area. He concludes that a new focus for commercial activity must be developed on the edge of the city either in the Trumpington area or to the east near Marshall's airport. This cannot be done if the Fitzroy-Burleigh scheme proceeds, as the indications now are that it will

1974 02 18

The three Cambridge parliamentary candidates competed for the ears of shoppers in a battle of decibels in the Market Place. The Liberal, Dr Michael O'Loughlin, was coming to the end of his soap-box session when his Conservative opponent, Mr David Lane, arrived armed with a megaphone. Minutes later the Labour contingent arrived with their candidate, Mr Jim Curran. Their loudspeaker van made a tour of the Market Square booming out the socialist message and drowning everyone else.

1974 04 20

Four youths were arrested and three needed hospital treatment when 1,000 pop fans went on the rampage at Cambridge Corn Exchange. 68 windows were smashed and police with dogs took an hour to restore order. Police said trouble started when an American group, The Drifters, failed to appear. The packed hall had waiting for 90 minutes for the group to turn up. Each had paid £1.10p. to get into the 8pm to 1am pop concert

1974 05 22

Arch-goon Spike Milligan hosted a reception at the University Arms Hotel with folksinger Jeremy Taylor to mark the release of a double album, "An adult entertainment: Spike Milligan live at Cambridge University", recorded in concert at the Lady Mitchell Hall last year before an invited audience. Spike made a military entrance dressed in a blue-denim jacket – buttoned up wrongly – and a flowery shirt and inspected the guests who lined up in military ranks. He had spent the day in Cambridge being filmed by a BBC crew. In the afternoon he visited the market and briefly served behind the counter of Mr Andy Gray's record stall

1974 06 11

Norman Higgins, a trustee and former managing director of the Cambridge Arts Theatre died at his home. Eight years ago he retired as general manager of the Arts cinema which he had started as the Cosmopolitan cinema in 1933. His contribution to the cultural life of Cambridge since he managed the old Tivoli cinema was immense. He willingly responded when Lord Keynes invited him to supervise the building of the new Arts Theatre and was subsequently responsible for more than 200 productions of opera, ballet, plays, revues and pantomimes c74 06 11

1974 07 02

It was 50 years ago that Mrs Ruth Mellanby began to guide people round the colleges when she was asked by a newly-opened travel agency in Guildhall St, Cambridge to take two elderly American tourists round. This was the beginning of a life-long and distinguished career as a guide. In 1950 she wrote her little book, "Cambridge in brief" as a thumbnail sketch of the colleges. Then 20 years ago she started the Cambridge Guide Service, training a group of around 20 guides. The Guild of Guide Lecturers ultimately drove the street touts who at one time operated their own dubious type of tours, out of business

1974 07 18

Seven generation of Barretts have been supplying the citizens of Cambridge with pottery and glass since the C18. This week the family business is virtually "coming home to roost" in opening up new premises in Gt St Mary's Passage – only a stone's throw from the spot where Simon Barrett opened up his first shop nearly 200 years ago. The long-established premises in St Andrew's Street will still remain in business.

1974 09 21

Housewives in Mid-Anglia who are stripping the shops of salt were described by shopkeepers and suppliers as mad and hysterical. The panic buying has been caused by false rumours and there is no shortage. Supermarket managers reported selling stocks that usually lasted three weeks in a day and a half. "This whole city has gone crackers", said one manager. The International Stores on Market Hill, Cambridge, sold out during the week. At Lipton's in Royston a delivery which normally would have lasted all week, sold out on the same day. At St Neots the Co-op sold out within an hour of delivery

1974 09 26

Early morning in Cambridge market place and indomitably breezy stallholders arrive with bulging cardboard boxes full of paws paws, crocus bulbs, turnips, antique Persian porcelain coins, brillo pads and all other things we need to victual our leaky ship. Before some of them can load their trestle tables from the cardboard boxes, they must gather up the broken and bloody hypodermic syringes, left behind by heroin addicts overnight. Once the syringes are out of the way, the square is soon ready for the public – Chris South

1974 09 27

A fourth candidate today joined the Cambridge election contest. He is Mr Christopher Curry, a 28 year old electrical engineer who is representing the United Democratic Party. Their platform is basically anti Common-Market. He said he had only heard of the party at the start of the week. Nevertheless he is organising an active campaign programme. The other three candidates were all surprised. Mr David Lane said: "We had a Digger last time. This will make a change".

1974 10 05

A £2 million plan for converting the old Cambridge corn exchange into a multi-purpose concert hall was accepted by the City Amenities Committee. An early warning of stormy times ahead was given by Coun. Peter Cowell who said: "There is bound to be a lot of opposition". In their report the architects claim that "not only Cambridge but England as a whole will gain a concert hall of potentially international stature which could attract the finest musical talent". They suggest the reshaped building could hold up to 1500 people and would also be ideal for events such as boxing, wrestling, operas, plays, exhibitions and conferences.

1974 12 24

Cambridge planners are looking at the possibility of turning the central library buildings in Wheeler Street into a Civic Restaurant when the library is moved into a new building in the Lion Yard next summer. The Library buildings are the centre of a legal wrangle between the city and county council who have now taken over responsibility for public libraries. The county claim the old library building should be given to, it but the city is arguing that as the library forms part of the Guildhall complex – the council's administrative headquarters – the county has no claim. The replacement of a Civic restaurant has been a top priority with the new Labour-controlled city council since it took office nine years ago

1975 02 14

For many months Andy's record stall has been one of the biggest market square attractions in the country. And with the opening of his new shop in Mill Road, Cambridge, Andy Gray has achieved another success. Opened by "Mr Top Twenty", Alan Freeman, the shop already houses more than 500 LPs covering the whole spectrum of folk, country and western, rock, motown and soul. There is also a cassette corner in the new shop. They will continue to offer discounts of between 50p and 90p off most LPs and albums.

1975 03 08

The Kojak craze has hit Cambridge. Sales of the sort of lollipop the actor Telly Savalas sucks in the popular television series have soared in the past three weeks in Cambridge, according to Mr Jim Reynolds, the 'Rock King' of Newmarket Road. He believes that most of the increased sales are being made to adults, not children. As far as Kojak hairstyles are concerned, Mr Terry Taylor, of Topman, Market Hill, Cambridge, said he had one or two customers who were thinking about adopting the Kojak look, but no-one has actually had the style done yet, he said

1975 04 12

The Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, came to Cambridge last night. For an hour he overcame both hecklers and the notorious acoustics of the city's Corn Exchange to win a standing ovation from almost 1,000 people. His main topic was the Common Market. He then went through a list of election promises and while harassed by the hecklers, who had paid 15p to get into the meeting, spelled out how each promise had been fulfilled.

1975 06 26

The temptation to buy strawberries this weekend may be overwhelming, but buy without thought and you have a more than even chance of being taken for a ride. Prices vary from 42p to 40p per half-pound & only the astute shopper can be sure of getting quality and the right quantity. At a stall on Market Hill I selected a 25p box and asked for them to be weighed. They were below ½ lb and with a cheerful smile the assistant added two more strawberries – from another punnet!

1975 09 03

Frank & Babs Munns, well-known to numerous city centre newspaper buyers, have retired from their Market Passage newsagents. They have been in the business for 45 years. His family started in Newnham, one of only two wholesalers in Cambridge of Sunday newspapers. They started their first business in Castle Street and moved to Market Passage 14 years ago. Over the years there has been a

big increase in the number of continental magazines people want to buy. Italians from as far afield as Bedford come to their shop for periodicals in their own language

1975 09 17

Over 25 years of argument, several million pounds of ratepayers' money and three years of toil what will we get? The Lion Yard development. On the first floor is a modest entrance to a building that Cambridge has desperately needed for many years ... the new library. It has three floors. The top will be used for housing the Cambridgeshire Collection. On the first floor is a children's room where young readers can comfortably browse through their selection. The building bears about as much comparison with the old Wheeler Street library as Buckingham Palace does with the Black Hole of Calcutta

1975 10 16

Never had the cherubs on top of the marble columns looked down on a scene of such noise and commotion. For years they have held sway over an atmosphere of dignified hush in the library in Wheeler Street, Cambridge. But all that changed when removal men dismantled bookcases and piled thousands of books into crates ready to go to the ultra-modern library in Lion Yard. As men stripped away its contents the room with its faded splendour and peeling yellow paint looked remarkably small. It was never easy to reach the top or bottom shelves of the tall bookcases. Anyone bold enough to crouch down and survey the low shelf inevitably collided with some other borrower standing behind.

1975 12 04

Princess Anne, making her first official visit to Cambridge, insisted on an impromptu chat with some of the thousands of sight-seers who thronged the city centre Lion Yard shopping centre. An estimated 10,000 people packed the Market Square and stood eight deep each side of Petty Cury as she walked into the new shopping centre. She stopped to talk to the delighted shop girls who were crowding their doorways and also to the eager shoppers who pressed forward to get a closer look at her. She explained: "I am not a complete stranger here because I have been shown around the university and city unofficially by two previous students who are both fans of the old city"

1976 02 02

Because of its low unemployment figure Cambridge is a labour-importing city. Up to £3,000 worth of government grants could be given to a man and his family in an area of high unemployment to persuade them to live and work here. The new Jobcentre in Guildhall Place has aptly been described as a job supermarket. An inviting window display tempts people into the well-carpeted warmth. The centre employs 26 people who find their work far more enjoyable now than ever they did in the days of the Labour Exchange

1976 03 17

One of Cambridge's best-known characters, Trevor Hughes, was rescued by firemen from a blazing room in a derelict house in East Road. He was found choking in a smoke-filled room at the back of the old headquarters of the Cyrene Community. Trevor, the elder statesman of the Cambridge dossier community, is well-known to shoppers in the Market Square where he sits daily by the fountain

1976 08 03

The Government has decided that the experimental traffic restriction system in the centre of Cambridge can become permanent. Through traffic will be prevented from going along Sidney Street and St Andrews Street between Emmanuel and Market Street junctions, and along King's Parade. The experiment was introduced 18 months ago – against a background of support from amenity organisations and opposition from city centre traders who carried their protests to a public inquiry.

1976 11 22

The former Liberal Party leader, Mr Jeremy Thorpe, spoke to shoppers near the Market Square, Cambridge above the noise of Conservative electioneering from the next-door stand. He arrived to

join the Liberal candidate, Dr Michael O'Loughlin in addressing people at the corner of the Guildhall. A few yards away the Conservative candidate, Mr Robert Rhodes James broadcast his message through a megaphone. The Labour candidate, Mr Martin Smith, remained away from the shouting match – meeting people further along Lion Yard

1977 01 26

The international entertainment organisation, Mecca, has invited Cambridge City Council to talk about possible future uses for the Corn Exchange, one of the city's main entertainment centres. Five years ago Mecca turned down a request, saying Cambridge was too small to support a large-scale complex. Four years ago the Council expressed interest in a massive facelift operation, but could not afford the then £1.5m for the work and was unable to find a private backer. Coun. Garner said: "It is often criticised as a white elephant, but it is surprising just how many functions are held there. We would not want to lose this amenity"

1977 01 31

A wave of soccer hooliganism swept across Cambridgeshire as hundreds of supporters passed through the county on their way to three major matches in East Anglia. At one time a convoy of 21 coaches carrying about 1,000 fans was escorted by police. A whole coachload of Derby fans was arrested in Cambridge city centre and escorted back to the Essex border after cars were damaged and occupants hurt by thrown bricks, bottles and beer cans. Cambridge United's Fourth Division clash with Darlington at the Abbey Stadium was free from serious trouble but pubs reported incidents as fans swept through the city. A soldier was injured outside the Still and Sugar Loaf public house at the Market Square.

1977 02 22

Cambridge open-air market traders have slammed the city council's decision to close the underground lavatories on the Market Square during the day. It will be most inconvenient for the many fruit and veg sellers obliged by health regulations to keep hot water on or near their stalls. They now face a hundred yards walk to the Lion Yard super loos, described as the most palatial in the country. But women stall holders can face up to half an hour's wait during the summer tourist season.

1977 05 28

The Mayor of Cambridge, Coun Maurice Garner, has offered to arrange skate-boarding sessions for city children in the Corn Exchange, where the council has a roller skating area, to keep them off the streets and away from the traffic. The new craze is rapidly gaining popularity and already some schools have banned their pupils from practising in the school grounds. For months the Road Safety Committee has expressed concern at the growing practice of skateboarding in the streets. A council report concludes: "As more people join in with the sport there is no doubt that the local authority will be asked to provide skate parks such as are provided in the United States"

1977 06 10

One of Cambridge's best-known characters, Trevor Hughes, clocked up his 100th recorded conviction at the city magistrates' court when he admitted being drunk and disorderly in the Market Square. As he came into court, Mr Hughes, looking thinner and without his famous bobble hat or bushy beard said: "Good afternoon everybody". In court he said: "I won't deny it, but I can't remember. I like a little drop of tiddly, but I'm not abusive. But people say: 'look at that dirty old so and so', and I lose my temper". He was sent to prison for a month.

1977 06 12

More than 1,500 people packed into Great St Mary's Church, Cambridge to hear the Calcutta missionary, Mother Teresa, talk about her work among the dying and destitute of India. She asked the congregation "not to give from their abundance but to give from their love, till it hurts". Earlier she had been the first to receive an honorary degree from Prince Philip. The University Orator, Dr Frank Stubbings spoke of her work: "She saw the multitudes and had compassion on them; she went alone,

in poverty, to the homes of the poorest, tended their illnesses and set up a school in the midst of the slums” c77 06 12

1977 08 03

Cambridge’s £3 million concert and conference hall that never was began with a £2 million promise to pay for the conversion of the Corn Exchange. But that promise, made in 1974 was short-lived. Mr David Robinson decided that the Corn Exchange was ugly and should be pulled down. Instead he favoured a purpose-built concert and conference hall on the Downing Street end of the Lion Yard complex. The man at the centre of those protracted negotiations was Coun Jack Warren who told him it was a listed building and could not be pulled down but he pooh-poohed this. In October 1976 Mr Robinson wrote to say it would be impossible for him to provide the money, and then gave another £7 to Robinson College.

1977 09 26

Before I met The Strangers I met their fans who formed a bizarrely-painted and clothed chain stretching from the Corn Exchange to King’s Parade. First in the queue was a character by the name of Rat Rancid, with his mate Garry Gangrene, from King’s Lynn. Here were some punks that looked every bit as vile as the ones we’ve all read about. They were horrible. I think it was the safety pins through the cheeks that made me feel slightly sick, but it may just have been the chains through their noses. They snarled and leered while my colleague, Mike Manni, took their pictures. Then Rat put down his can of Party Seven and scribbled his address. Could we send some prints. “To Rat Rancid”, I asked. “Oh, no”, he gasped. “My mum wouldn’t like that”

1977 12 21

Cambridge market is the logical starting point for the Christmas shopping trek: it’s close to shops of every different kind, and is surrounded by banks. But heading straight for the centre and hoping to find a parking space somewhere is a mug’s game at the best of times. At Christmas it’s plain daft, although people still do it. Traffic wardens are not so many Santa Clauses in disguise and you’ll just end up going round the one-way system a few times ... slowly. Or paying £6 for the privilege of stopping.

1977 12 22

Cambridge is not short of record shops, so what chance has another one got? The answer, says Andy Gray, is plenty. His latest shop “The Beat Goes On” is something out of the ordinary in that it caters for those interested in “golden oldies” and New Wave records. They specialise in records up to the 1970s and have on display portraits of “The Jam” who opened the shop on Friday. The new shop in Regent Street supplements the premises opened in Mill Road three years ago and Andy’s Record Stall on Cambridge market which is still a gathering place for music lovers.

1978 02 13

I went for a pub-crawl the other night – without moving from my ‘local’. Warmed by two or three pints of good beer I decided to call at The Criterion in Market Passage, which used to be a popular Saturday night pub, the Bun Shop just off Downing Street and the Volunteer in Green Street before tramping on to the Earl Grey in King Street and the Duke of Cambridge in Short Street. Every one of these pubs had its own special ‘character’. The journey took only a few minutes but the best part of 15 years – during which time all of them have closed.

1978 03 03

‘Giant Haystacks’, otherwise known as Luke McMasters, towers above every other wrestler in the British ring at 6ft 11in and 32 stone and you could only pity tiny 15½ stone Mike Marino as he stepped into the Corn Exchange ring to pit his strength against him. The bout looked over when Haystacks body-slammed Marino to the canvas and, with a contemptuous glance, headed for the dressing room. But incredibly Marino managed to stagger to his feet before the count ended and Haystacks could not lumber back into the ring in time. Earlier a crowd of 700 watched Bert Royal and Vic Falkner beat Hungarian exile Zoltan Boscik and Britain’s Chris Bailey.

1978 07 27

The Turk's Head, one of the largest eating places in central Cambridge, has served its last meals and drinks. Many of the 30 staff hope to be given the first chance in the project to turn the Plough and Harrow public house in Madingley Road into a restaurant. The Turk's Head opened in the 1960s as a restaurant where a range of inexpensive meals could be had across a wide price band but it was too close to another Berni Steak Bar around the corner in Rose Crescent. Now there are plans to turn it into two smaller restaurants together with a 'mini Burlington Arcade' with some 11 shops aimed at tourists.

1978 12 22

A remarkable cross-section of the community gathered for the funeral service of a well-known Cambridge personality. There was a former Dean of Jesus College, a police superintendent, booksellers, shopkeepers, a solicitor, market traders and college staff. They heard an address and sang hymns. Then they exchanged reminiscences about the man whose service they were attending, paid tribute to his memory and went away. A regular occurrence in a town like Cambridge, perhaps. A distinguished academic or leading businessman had died, it might be thought. But this service was for a shabby old man with a beard of no fixed abode who had some 113 convictions mainly on drinking charges and who sat and drank in the city centre – Trevor Hughes

1979 01 05

Gt St Mary's 5th centenary appeal launched [10.3]

1979 03 05

The Mayor of Cambridge, Coun Alec Molt, faced 300 chanting cyclists outside the Guildhall and signed their petition demanding better provision for cyclists. The demonstration began with a lecture on road safety and bike maintenance by the police, then led by a Panda car, they took a 15-minute tour of the city centre streets before returning to Peas Hill to hear councillors' views. Their priorities include cycle lanes on the Huntingdon & Madingley Roads and a contra-flow cycle lane in Downing Street.

1979 02 12

Two hundred Iranian students made Cambridge demonstration history when they knelt on Parker's Piece, prayed and recited from the Koran. In what is thought to be the first political demonstration starting with a mass prayer ritual on improvised prayer mats covering the wet turf, the Muslims called upon Allah to bless the efforts of the Ayatollah Khomeini to establish a republic in Iraq based on Koranic law. They then marched to the Market Square. No incidents were reported though some confusion existed among Saturday shoppers, knowing it was the first day of Rag Week. But the slogans "Death to the Shah" and "Long live Khomeini" soon dispelled their doubts.

1979 07 31

Pubs in and around Cambridge have come in for bitter criticism in a new guide written by two undergraduates. The Rose in Rose Crescent is described as a 'seedy little place in a seedy little street. Gay Cambridge meets there, which says little for their taste'. The Maypole in Park Street is described as a 'grotty little dive hidden rightly under the car park', the Carpenters Arms in Victoria Road is 'without redeeming feature; extremely anti-student clientele who would have beaten us up if they hadn't been so drunk. Dark and spooky'. The Locomotive in Mill Road 'ought to be exorcised, its evil ... the worst pub in Cambridge' while the Midland Tavern is, they say, 'the most notorious pub in town with a reputation for being a centre of vice'. One landlord replied: "It's about time the University made these little boys do some work for their degrees ... they speak too much claptrap"

1979 09 26

At the Strangers performance in Cambridge Corn Exchange the punks were matched in numbers by a fair splattering of pseudo-intellectuals and Hawkwind types. They could remember the energy the band used to put into their shows, but now with their softer approach the maniacal crowd response

was lacking. The pulverising brutality of 'Death and Night and Blood' still surges out but the Stranglers have now come of age and command respect. "We're trying a lot of new things, more complex, a bit of jazz. It went OK, at least Cambridge is always a good crowd", said Hugh Cornwell, recalling the Corn Exchange concert two years ago when bouncers took unkindly to being picked out by spotlights.

1979 10 01 c

Cambridge councillors complained that many of the city's traffic and parking regulations were not being enforced. One traffic warden went round the market square issuing parking tickets to motorists who had parked on double yellow lines but a few minutes later had a long friendly chat with the driver of an ice-cream van parked on the same lines. The van was towing a trailer which did not have any numberplates or lights. But police say the traffic warden force was only half its proper strength of 36 officers, two of whom were in office jobs.

1979 10 13

Cambridge Corn Exchange may be turned into a civic restaurant. The old one in Petty Cury was demolish amid a public outcry nearly eight years ago to make way for the Lion Yard redevelopment. It was started during the Second World War under the Government's British Restaurant plans for providing cheap meals and was continued by the council. It became something of a social centre and meeting place for many old people with nowhere to go during the day.

1980

1980 01 18

Cambridge Corn Exchange could be converted into a £1.5 million concert hall and entertainment centre after councillors voted to seek specialist advice. The Common Market is to be asked for a grant and the Arts Council will be approached for help. Some of the money the council hopes to raise from the sale of surplus land and profits from the Lottery may also go towards it. There were several voices of dissent but Coun Maurice Garner said: "It is not an elaborate and grandiose scheme. The Corn Exchange is hardly fit for use today and we must take action

1980 05 15

The TUC Day of Action was ignored by thousands of trade unionists in the Cambridge area who turned up for work as normal. But this failed to dampen the spirits of those who organised the protest against Government policies. The highlight was a mass public meeting in Market Square, preceded by a march through the city by 250 trade unionists. It was the biggest turn out the organisers can remember in Cambridge; when May Day marches were held there were fewer on the march than attended a normal trades council meeting 80 05 15b

1980 06 26

Four people were taken to hospital after a car careered across a corner of Cambridge Market Square. It ploughed across the Barclays Bank edge of the market, striking a flower stall, scattering fruit and vegetables and hitting two shoppers before ending up four feet from the railings of Gt St Mary's church. A Girton lady working on the flower stall said: "I just saw the car out of the corner of my eye and ran for it. The stall just folded up with its legs in the air" 80 06 26

1980 07 08

Cambridge City Council may refuse to make extra spending cuts because it wants to prevent staff sackings and reductions in public services. They may save money set aside for work on the Cattle Market site – which will not be ready this year anyway – and on modernising the Market Square lavatories. But they want to continue drawing up plans for the Kite area if the present scheme fails. 80 07 08c

1980 12 20

One of the oldest pubs in Cambridge, the Rose in Rose Crescent, may soon be just a memory. The brewery, Whitbread, is to sell the premises and it is likely to be converted into student accommodation. Landlord Alf Barnett said it was a place where a man in gumboots and work clothes could stand alongside a businessman with brolly and bowler hat and get along together. Sons of the gentry, over late-night cups of coffee, would ask to borrow the phone to ring 'Mum' and he used to vet their girlfriends. 80 12 20

1981 02 26

Down Your Street article by Sara Payne on Market Street: in an important series featuring tradesmen and residents in different areas of Cambridge. Continued 81 03 05

1981 03 24

When the Corn Exchange re-opened earlier this year after a new roof had been fitted at a cost of £200,000 it was thought that the only major rock venue in Cambridge had been restored to the city's youngsters and an impressive line-up of bands were booked to appear. But just four concerts later the clamour of protest about noise has outmatched the decibels of the bands and put the whole future of the hall in doubt. Now the council may have to install soundproofing. 81 03 24

1981 05 28

Down Your Street article by Sara Payne on Peas Hill: an important series featuring tradesmen and residents in different areas of Cambridge

1981 07 16

Drummer Street lavatories are smelly, bits of string helped tie the lavatory chains and the pipes were lagged with sacking. At Park Street there was no paper in any of the cubicles, no soap and no towels. One seat was missing entirely. Valiant efforts are being made to keep the subterranean convenience on the market square clean – you have only to look at the gleaming brass handrail and inhale the disinfectant smell. But I wouldn't want to have to take a child in there, even in an emergency. 81 07 16

1981 10 06

W. Eaden Lilley's department store, now under one roof in Market Street, is Cambridge's oldest business. The shop front, built in 1930, was in the form of a deep arcade but in 1971 the store reduced it by half and used the space to increase the sales floor. They also have a warehouse in Mill Lane housing the funeral department with its private chapel while their vans are garaged and maintained in Glisson Road. 81 10 06a & b

1981 09 17

Down Your Street article by Sara Payne on Bene't Street: an important series featuring tradesmen and residents in different areas of Cambridge; continued 81 09 24

1981 11 27

The first Cambridge tunnels dug under Peas Hill were used as wine vaults and one is blocked off by a wall of wine bottles cemented together. During the war they were wired for electricity and fitted out as air raid shelters for 400 people and later dossers used them as overnight hostels. In 1963 came proposals for an underground road starting at Maids Causeway and running down Jesus Lane and Emmanuel Road. There was also to be a three-storey underground car park. But the scheme was rejected. 81 11 27

1982 01 20

Film fans need have no fears that Cambridge cinemas may be converted into Bingo halls. EMI, which owns the two-screen Victoria say they have plans to convert it into a triple. It is the largest in town and attracts an average audience of about 600 people. Seats are now £2.10 for adults but the manager rejects the idea it is too expensive. One of the long-term threats is the home video market 82 01 20

1982 02 03

Andy Gray decided 13 years ago to move his collection of 500 second-hand singles from Bury market to serve the more discerning musical tastes of Cambridge. He can still be found in the market square today, though now he has eight shops in the region. He puts his success down to undercutting the traditional record retailers as well as offering the obscure stuff you just couldn't buy elsewhere. Rather like John Peel he has kept abreast of changes, opening 'The Beat Goes On' to cater for new trends. 82 02 03b

1982 04 08

Two of the most familiar faces on Cambridge market have called it a day. Kitty Davis has had a stall for more than 50 years; for much of that time she and her husband Joe have traded in fabrics, buttons and bows. Generations of doll owners have bought the frilly, lacy dresses she made. Racks of them hang beside her sewing machine at home; now she will sell them for charity. Previously she had a shop, 'Kathleens', in Burleigh Street selling ladies' underwear, hosiery and fashions. 82 04 08

1982 05 06

Down Your Street article by Sara Payne on Rose Crescent: an important series featuring tradesmen and residents in different areas of Cambridge; continued 82 05 13

1982 05 25

Jane Barrett, the joint managing director of the Cambridge china and glass specialists, has become the first woman in the world to have a Royal Doulton crinoline lady named after her. 'Jane', a portrait of an Edwardian lady holding a parasol, has been created exclusively to celebrate Barretts bi-centenary this year and will only be sold at their shop in St Mary's Passage. 82 05 25 & a

1982 06 01

The lights went up for the last time on the ABC Minors Matinee at the Victoria Cinema, Cambridge. The final credits brought to an end an institution which has won a place in the hearts of thousands of children. No more will Keith Kendall and his part-time cleaner colleagues sneak into the lavatories to catch some 12-year-olds having a crafty cigarette. Sid Perkiss, who has manned the box office, remembers when two or three hundred children packed the cinema. Now it has been killed by the one-eyed villain, television. 82 06 01

1982 06 11

Three Cambridge restaurants have been recommended in a new guide to vegetarian cooking. But Renwick's Restaurant in Magdalene Street closed in March. Hobbs Pavilion comes in for the highest praise for its chilled cucumber soup while Nettles in St Edward's Passage serves a bulgar wheat pie that looks unappetising but tastes remarkable. 82 06 11a

1982 10 04

Market announces worst months trading for 30 years due to parking problems [5.8]

1982 11 23

£1M appeal recital at Barbican by artists who started careers in Cambridge as tribute George Rylands who just retired as Chairman Arts Theatre Trust aged 80 [8.3]

1983 01 21

Down Your Street article by Sara Payne on Market Hill: an important series featuring tradesmen and residents in different areas of Cambridge; continued to 3rd February

1983 06 23

Down Your Street article by Sara Payne on St Mary's Passage: an important series featuring tradesmen and residents in different areas of Cambridge; continued 83 06 30

1983 12 05

A fire at the Victoria 1 cinema on Market Hill completely destroyed the screen and part of the stage, causing damage estimated at £50,000. There appears to have been a forced entry and it is being treated as arson. The cinema was showing 'War Games'. It is hoped to open the 139-seater Victoria 2 today. 83 12 05 p1

1983 12 13

An old Cambridge family business which closed 20 years ago is being 'revived'. Matthew and Son was once a prosperous department store founded in the 1830s in Trinity Street with its own tea rooms and restaurant. It closed in 1963 because of high rents but now the great-great-nephew of the founder, Michael Matthew, has started up the tea and coffee business again in much humbler surroundings of a market stall. 83 12 13 p12

1983 12 29

Britain has about 75,000 pubs but experts say the number will have dropped by 10,000 by the end of the century. Six Cambridge pubs have closed in the last ten years and most were knocked down and redeveloped. The Rose in Rose Crescent is the only one still standing with its basement now housing Flambards wine bar. The Bun Shop went after years spent in splendid isolation as the Lion Yard was built. The King William IV in Newmarket was flattened as was the Prince Albert in Chesterton. The Ancient Druids and Old English Gentleman were demolished as part of the Kite clearance. 83 12 29 p12

1984 02 08

Cambridge's Victoria cinema reopened after the disastrous fire and is now one of the best-equipped in the country with new equipment, new seats and much-improved lavatories. It has six-track stereo, a new screen and the new 70mm projector is seen at full benefit in films like 'Ghandi' and 'The Star Wars' trilogy which will be brought back by popular demand. When the seven-hour programme was tried out last year it attracted a full house with people in fancy costume 84 02 08 p14

1984 09 06

A blaze swept through the ABC Regal cinema in St Andrew's Street, gutting the central part of the 730-seat auditorium. The recently-renewed screen melted with the heat and the rest was damaged. The Polyurethane seat and floor coverings caused a lot of smoke which penetrated the upstairs ABC2 cinema. It is believed to have been started by a cigarette end left smouldering by a cinema-goer. Last year the Victoria cinema was damaged by an arson attack 84 09 06 [4.3]

1984 11 22

Cambridge's Savoy Jazzmen, who are celebrating 25 years of rip-roaring music, have announced they are to quit. The group's leader and only remaining original member, Barry Palser, has promised they will get together for special gigs. The Jazzmen have performed throughout Europe and have a single due for release in Germany. They got together to play for their own enjoyment in 1959 but were then invited to play for parties. They have become part of Cambridge music heritage, playing in parades, jazz clubs and Festivals. Barry remembers when Kenny Ball and Acker Bilk called into the Rose pub in Rose Crescent and joined in a couple of sessions. 84 11 22b

1984 12 03

The church of St Andrew the Great officially became redundant on St Andrew's Day. Sunday services would have ceased immediately but the Greek Orthodox congregation, who use the church, protested that they couldn't find anywhere else at such short notice. Now diocesan authorities will allow both Greek and Anglican services to continue until January. Under the terms of the closure the parish will merge with neighbouring Holy Trinity 84 12 03

1985 02 11

More than 5,000 Sinclair C5 electric vehicles have been sold during the first four weeks of production. At the moment it is sold by mail order but they are already talking to a number of High Street retailers who would sell the £400 machine direct to the public. Interest has come from as far away as the Outer Hebrides and Cornwall and from both teenagers and old age pensioners. In Cambridge the Eastern Electricity showrooms on Market Hill report continued interest in the machine they have on display and have distributed over 2,000 order forms 85 02 11

1985 07 25

Andy Gray can be seen early in the morning on Market Hill unloading four tons of records. It was as an 18-year-old straight out of school that he bought second-hand juke box records and sold them from market stalls. He took £80 on his first day at Cambridge – more money than he had seen in his life before – and opened his first shop in Mill Road. Now Andy's Records is the biggest chain of record shops in the region with a multi-million pound turnover. But he still serves behind the counter whenever he can. 85 07 25 & 85 07 30

1985 10 15

Pigott's, the family ironmongers which has traded in Cambridge for more than a century, is up for sale. It was in 1863 that John Pigott, son of a Landbeach farmer, opened an ironmongers shop in Sidney Street and a chain of shops were set up in Market Hill, Mill Road, Norfolk Street, Bridge Street and Hills Road. The Sussex Street branch, an established feature of the street since the late 1930s, shut down last September. The business, now in Victoria Road, includes two shops, a warehouse, stores and office. 85 10 15a

1985 10 21

The old Otto Wehrle public clock is to be returned to its former position after a decade's absence. The 102-year-old clock was removed from the Cambridge Market Square façade when the Wehrle jewellers business closed after 125 years. Now it has been discovered in Lincolnshire by a Saffron Walden dealer in ancient artefacts, Stephen McDermott. It is being restored by Rodney Firmin of Magdalene Street before being unveiled once more next spring 85 10 21

1985 12 13

Snowy Farr's name and face are instantly recognisable all over the world. The self-styled 'King of the Roads' in his outrageously colourful clothes and with his menagerie of animals has become a regular feature of Cambridge Market Place over the years. It was 1971 when Snowy, now 66, started collecting money for the blind. Over the years he had built up a collection of cats, mice, rabbits, birds and his faithful dog, Spot, which are all transported in a colourful home-made cart built round a bicycle. The former road sweeper has appeared on television, in newspapers and magazines as far away as Canada, Hong Kong and even Australia. 85 12 13a

1985 12 17

Cambridge's Victoria Cinema has been sold to make way for a new Marks and Spencer store. The prime market square site has housed the city's largest cinema since 1931 and underwent a major refurbishment following a fire two years ago. The sale will leave Cambridge with two other cinemas, the ABC 1 and ABC 2 complex and the Arts Cinema. But there are plans to change the old Kinema bingo hall in Mill Road back into a cinema 85 12 17

1986 01 03

Actors, actresses and directors arrived in Cambridge to mark the 50th anniversary of the Arts Theatre. Eleanor Bron, whose career started with the Cambridge Footlights, arrived first to be followed by Dame Peggy Ashcroft, Timothy West with his actress wife Prunella Scales and Judi Dench. Sir Peter Hall laughed with his old friend Trevor Nunn and was joined by Ian McKellan, the irrepressible Arthur Marshall and the broadcaster Richard Baker. The occasion was a unique recital devised by Dr George Rylands, affectionately known as 'Dadie' 86 01 03 86 02 03b & c elite of British acting world

give unique Shakespeare performance - "Strange eventful history" celebrate 50th anniversary Arts Theatre, £15,000 raised [8.5] loses £181,000 at box office [8.5]

1986 07 09

W.H. Smith, a familiar sight on Cambridge Market Hill for the past 25 years is to close. Staff will be transferred to their other shops in Lion Yard and at Cambridge railway station. 86 07 09

1986 07 16

Cambridge planners rejected proposals to demolish the Victoria Cinema at Market Hill and replace it with a Marks and Spencer superstore. It would deprive many people of a first-class city centre entertainments facility, the shopping proposal was contrary to development plans and it would result in added traffic congestion. But they might change their minds if Cannon reopened the Central Cinema in Hobson Street instead of using it as a bingo hall or provided a new multi-screen cinema 86 07 16

1986 10 23

Work to widen pavements in Market Street and Sidney Street and reduce traffic using the city centre are attracting a storm of protest. 86 10 23

1986 11 26

The Corn Exchange, Cambridge's new entertainment and conference complex, has opened after years of political wrangling. The four wall shell used for pop concerts, roller skating and badminton has been developed into an auditorium with stage and versatile seating together with a tiered balcony and mezzanine terrace that can be used for a variety of purposes. At the back are changing rooms, dressing rooms and workshops while the King Room upstairs will be available for private functions 86 11 26d & e

1986 12 27

Sales fever hit Cambridge as shoppers converged on city stores. Hundreds of bargain hunters took more than 10 minutes to throng into Eaden Lilley's in Market Street when the doors opened on the first day of the sales while at Joshua Taylor's nearby clothes and furniture were snapped up. In the Grafton Centre Debenhams was overwhelmed with people rushing to get in while Laskys hi-fi dealers are expecting a bumper day up and the Queensway furniture store in Coldham's Lane say sales have been booming. 86 12 27

1987 01 08

Traders are blaming Cambridge's parking problems for turning the market into a 'morgue' and 'cutting trade by up to 50 per cent'. They say shoppers are going elsewhere and the centre is dying simply because there is nowhere to park. There are too few car parks, too high parking fees, a loss of meter spaces and cuts in bus services. A Consultant's report commissioned by leading retailers and hotel bosses has also said that poor parking facilities are costing shops lost trade and a pressure group has called for a 1,000-space underground car park 87 01 08a

1987 03 14

Barrett's China and Glass shop in St Mary's Street is to close after 200 years in Cambridge with the business transferred to Newmarket. The owner says that the appalling parking problems are one factor for the move. In January a city centre gift shop and a doctor's surgery both moved out for the same reason. The Parsley Pot shop in Lion Yard has also closed. The Managing Director of Eaden Lilley has warned the parking crisis in traffic-choked Cambridge could only get worse. 87 03 14

1987 03 26

Chirpy market trader Bill Gray has gone to extreme lengths to keep his customers happy. He even skinned a rabbit for one person who stopped to buy some fruit and veg. His beaming smile and friendly small-talk has been a big boost for business. And the smile does not fade when the rain lashes down. Bill, of Gt Shelford, has been a familiar face during the past 31 years. But now he is calling it a

day and will hand the business over to his son and daughter-in-law. But his regulars – who include the wife of the former Master of Trinity - will be pleased to know that he will still help out sometimes. 87 03 26

1987 04 06

Veteran rocker Jerry Lee Lewis gave a high voltage performance at the Corn Exchange. The audience ranged from the Mayor, John Woodhouse, to the secretary of Cambridge Elvis Presley Fan Club. Quiffs and DAs sprouted from male heads while the girls sported pony tails, satin or chiffon ribbons and bright lipstick. Teds wore their distinctive plumage of drape jackets and drainpipe trousers. All united in a huge roar as a short figure strolled on to the stage and the opening bars of 'Roll Over Beethoven' powered round the hall. 87 04 06

1987 06 26

The Victoria Cinema site on Market Hill is to become a Marks and Spencer store following an Inspector's decision. M & S is planning to put up a completely new building behind the existing façade and the store will also stretch into the shoe shop next door. Refusing permission would not have saved the cinema as the owners wanted to sell the property. But planners fear traffic chaos unless the firm is responsible about deliveries: they can as of right bring huge great articulated trucks down Bridge Street and Trinity Street in the middle of the working day if they so wish. 87 06 26

1987 10 21

Classical music concerts could be curtailed at Cambridge Corn Exchange in a bid to cut losses. But 'popular' acts such as comedians Phil Cool & Victoria Wood and big-time rock groups like Motorhead and David Essex have proved a massive success. In just nine months the Corn Exchange has been established as an important venue with plenty of sell-outs and successes. This has led to agents asking if their acts can play there. David Essex, Courtney Pine, The Shadows and the Drifters are amongst those whose managements have approached them. 87 10 21

1987 11 03

Mini skirts are back in fashion – even the Duchess of York has been seen stepping out in a skirt which exposed the royal knee. Snob in Market Street has pleated minis, knitted minis, straight minis – the style does not matter. For evenings they have frothy, flared minis which are teamed with stiff net petticoats and clingy 'hunza' dresses. Mini-wearer Nim Bruce of Mill Street says: "It doesn't matter if you've got good legs or not – they are frivolous and fun" 87 11 03

1987 11 10

Shadows at Corn Exchange – 87 11 10

1988 01 15

Lights went up for the last time at the Victoria Cinema as the final performance of its last show came to an end. As the audience left after seeing 'Spaceballs' or 'Predator', manager Richard Wright reflected on the cinema's long history. Memories of MGM musicals, Saturday morning minors and all-night horror shows came flooding back. Mick Wells, who has been the chief projectionist for 24 years recalled the halcyon days when 'South Pacific' ran for two solid years and 'The Sound of Music' for three. Now the building on Cambridge Market Hill will make way for a new Marks and Spencer store. 88 01 15

1988 01 22

The Cambridge Rock Group Competition saw 1,000 fans jammed into the Corn Exchange to support the seven bands battling out for places in the semi-final. The gentle jazz-rock group, Curious, featured the magnificent vocals of Hilary Bailey and her 10-string Chapman stick bass which gave them a clean sound, Bogus Renegades were impressive for their years but Turn to Blue's squeaky clean pop was not fashionable in this competition. In the end it was the dynamic Nutmeg and Indiscretion who took the honours. 88 01 22a

1988 03 14

Restaurants in Cambridge city centre have suffered a dramatic loss of trade since the controversial closure of the Victoria Cinema and its redevelopment for a new Marks and Spencer store. The Berni Steak House in Rose Crescent is down 150 meals a week while Flambards wine bar in Rose Crescent has also lost custom. The owner of the Italian Kitchen says there is nothing for anyone to come in for in the evening. The whole place is just deserted. 88 03 14

1988 06 09

Health Food Stores of Rose Crescent was ahead of its time when it started under the name of Sandwiches and Health Food in Green Street in 1931. The brainchild of an Australian, Clarence Dowell and his wife, who worked in the kitchen making sandwiches, it introduced many Cambridge people to the delights of nut rissoles and vegetarian food. Now it is to close and Peppercorns delicatessen will open in the premises 88 06 09c

1988 06 25

Arlington Development plan shopping shake-up involving Joshua Taylor, Eaden Lilley and the Arts Cinema, realigning Market Passage – 88 06 25

1988 07 21

The future of Cambridge market could be in doubt due to parking problems, stallholders say. Until 1969 drivers could park their cars in the middle of the market area – an attendant collected the fees – while stallholders occupied all the outside area. Then the council came up with a proposal that the area be divided into two – half stalls, half cars. But this provoked indignation and all parking was banned with new metal-framed plastic-covered stalls instead of wood and canvas set out over whole area. – 88 07 21

1988 09 05

Nettles, one of Cambridge's most popular snack bars in St Edward's Passage, may close. 88 09 05

1989 05 01

Tourists contributed £165 million to Cambridge's economy last year, supporting between 8 and 10,000 people in the service industry. Each spends about £47. But just £157,000 was spent on welcoming them – less than 5p a head. The council cash went on running the tourism office in Wheeler Street which has 12 full-time staff and another dozen workers in the summer. The colleges are a major attraction but university life would be seriously disrupted if they were allowed to roam uncontrolled. Most colleges close during exams but are anxious not to close their gates unnecessarily. 89 05 01a, 02

1989 08 05

The Government has rejected plans for a massive office block at Mitcham's Corner. But there is still a steady trade in office space. Those in old buildings without car park parking space are difficult to shift. But bright new ones are easier to find. In Rose Crescent an 18-year lease is going for £65,000 and an eight-room office in Hobson Street is £15,000 a year. Kett House is under offer and an office above the Midland Bank has just been let while in Newmarket is a brand new Stourbridge Common Business Centre 89 08 05

1989 08 09a

The Gardenia in Rose Crescent is a Mediterranean restaurant, run for the last 20 years by the Loizou family who have never lost their strong Cypriot identity. Mum Paraskevi prepares all Greek meat dishes such as shevtallia meatballs while Dad, Andreas, mans the tills. They were the first to introduce the kebab into Cambridge. But now they have decided to close and the restaurant is up for sale. 89 08 09a

1989 09 21

Cambridge Arts Theatre is to launch an appeal to replace its 650 aging and tatty seats, worn carpets and poor ventilation system. Despite artistic success it has financial problems. Even when a show is a roaring success and playing to packed houses, the theatre makes a £3,000 loss. The problem is worse when operas are performed as a full orchestra reduces seating capacity from 650 to 580. Small profits from catering services, costume-hire and renting out the building for conferences only makes a dent in the overall loss. 89 09 21

1989 11 06

A poll-tax protestor hurled a petrol bomb through the window of city council offices in Peas Hill and daubed 'No Poll Tax' in red paint on the wall and doors 89 11 06

1990 01 31

Corn Exchange cultural centre – feature – 90 01 31a & b

1990 03 13

University Audio founder Gruffydd Reece started University Cameras in St Mary's Passage after leaving the RAF in 1945. The business expanded and he opened Fencolour Laboratories in Newmarket Road, one of the first to offer colour developing and printing for amateurs. He was later joined by his brother Hugh and cousin Bryan Hyam who started University Audio in Peas Hill – 90 03 13

1990 05 02

Andrew Blackwood retires as manager of Arts Theatre, Stephen Walton his successor; interview – 90 05 02a, b

1990 08 15

Market traders put forward plan to pedestrianize the square with a quarter left free for stalls – 90 08 15a

1990 09 26

Market Hill revamp plans include new fountain – 90 09 26a